



## Comrat Local Coordination Meeting

Meeting Minutes – 14 December 2023

### 1. Meeting Details

<b>Date</b>	14 December 2023
<b>Time</b>	10:00 - 11:30
<b>Chair</b>	Igor Gorgan, UNHCR Senior Field Assistant Hideaki Kojima, UNHCR Associate Field Officer
<b>Reporting</b>	Hideaki Kojima, Associate Field Officer
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:kojima@unhcr.org">kojima@unhcr.org</a>

### 2. Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Refresher presentation about local coordination
3. Presentation on the RRP2024 Local Consultation final report
4. Briefing on school enrolment process
5. Presentation on the RAC Consolidation Process
6. Activity updates from the participating organizations
7. 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?>

### 4. Participants (Name, Position, Organization)



- Serghei Anastasov, Mayor of Comrat
- Igor Gorgan, UNHCR
- Fadia Jbara, UNHCR
- Hideaki Kojima, UNHCR
- Kyrylo Prykhodko, UNHCR
- Eugeniu Popescu, UNHCR
- Vladimir Petrovici, IOM
- Svetlana Stiroi, IOM Comrat
- Cristina Rotari, IOM
- Mihailov Anatoli, Diaconia
- Bolgar Natalia, Diaconia
- Valeria Damilov, Danish Refugee Council
- Alexandru Nani, Danish Refugee Council
- Olga Dumca, Police Inspectorate Comrat
- Ivan Boicov, Police Inspectorate Comrat
- Hrisia Mishioglo, IGM Comrat
- Natalia Capanji, Ceadâr-Lunga Municipality
- Dominica Popescu, Cimişlia Municipality
- Tatiana Nedalcova, Comrat Education Department
- Olga Cîrma, ATU Gagauzia Education Department
- Filipova Galina, DASPF Taraclia
- Georgieva Svetlana, NGO “Biaz Gul”
- Aliona Curdoglo, INGO “International Blue Crescent”
- Dmitri Furtuna, NGO “Laolalta”, Comrat CSC
- Pasali Danil, “Ave Copii”, Kongaz RAC

## 5. Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>Igor Gorgan, UNHCR Senior Field Assistant, <a href="mailto:gorgan@unhcr.org">gorgan@unhcr.org</a> Hideaki Kojima, UNHCR Associate Field Officer, <a href="mailto:kojima@unhcr.org">kojima@unhcr.org</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mayor of Comrat</b> welcomed participants and mentioned that we needed to be always ready for refugee response since we do not know what to expect in the situation in Ukraine. Many actors conduct activities in Gagauzian Region, and we are together to help people in need. The municipality is also ready to support people in need and the organizations supporting them. The peaceful coexistence should be promoted, and the municipality is looking forward to future cooperation with all actors.</li> <li>• <b>UNHCR</b> welcome the participants to the meeting and thanked the support of municipality.</li> <li>• <b>UNHCR</b> 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</li> </ul>	



	<p>difficulties or challenges they face during their activities so that the issues will be brought to the national-level working groups for possible solutions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>UNHCR</b> 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 (<a href="#">ROM</a> / <a href="#">RUS</a> / <a href="#">ENG</a>).</li><li>• <b>UNHCR</b> 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.</li></ul>	
<p><b>Briefing on school enrolment process</b></p> <p>Fadia Jbara, UNHCR Education Officer, <a href="mailto:jbara@unhcr.org">jbara@unhcr.org</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>UNHCR</b> explained the recent change in the regulation of school enrolment for Ukrainian children as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Ukrainian children can be enrolled in Moldovan schools regardless of whether they have the TP status or not. They have to fill in a registration form (<a href="#">Ukrainian</a> / <a href="#">Russian</a>).</li><li>– Required documents for the enrolment are:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Registration form</li><li>○ ID of the parent or guardian</li><li>○ ID or a birth certificate of the student</li><li>○ Medical certificate of the student by any hospitals/clinics in Moldova: The purpose of this document is to show that the child can stay with other children.</li><li>○ Any document related to the previous academic performance of the student such as a copy of school transcript: If there is no document available to be submitted, schools can establish a committee to evaluate the performance of the child and decide to which class the child will be assigned.</li></ul></li><li>– If there is no available spot in a school, the school principal can refer the student to another school nearby to be enrolled.</li></ul></li></ul>	



- The government of Moldova is encouraging Ukrainian parents to enroll their children into Moldovan schools to keep their social relation with other children. Last year, most of Ukrainian children were enrolled in the Ukrainian online school curriculum and some children were attending a Moldovan school as an observer without the obligation to take exams. However, the observer status will be abolished in 2024 and Ukrainian children are invited to attend the school on an equal footing with local children.
- If parents prefer the children to stay in the Ukrainian online curriculum, there are some schools equipped with a TechLab room. In these schools, children can attend the Ukrainian online curriculum with the supervision of a teacher at a school. Out of approximately 200 schools in Moldova, around 100 schools are equipped with this TechLab room (out of which around 25 are already operational). If a school does not have a TechLab room, the school principal can arrange a room where the children can gather and attend the Ukrainian online curriculum.
- **Q1.** A medical certificate for children can be acquired in Moldova, but what about the vaccination record? It sometimes happens that there are differences between Moldova and Ukraine regarding the type of vaccination that should be taken in a certain age or the frequency of the vaccination.
- **A1.** Eventually, each case has to be examined separately. In case of any unclarities, it is advised to approach first to the school principal, and then to the Education Directorate of each region. If the problem cannot be solved, you are invited to approach to UNHCR and the Education Working Group.
- **Q2.** Mothers of Ukrainian children are worried that the observer status at schools is no longer available. There are rumors that Moldovan education certificates are not accepted in Ukraine.
- **A2.** There is a legal agreement between Moldova and Ukraine that the educational diploma will be recognized as an official proof in both countries.



**Updates from organizations**

- **A participant** shared concerns in the region as follows:
  - Humanitarian assistance in Gagauzia is scarce and most of services are only available in Chisinau. People in Gagauzia feel very underrepresented and local organizations are underfunded. It is helpful that UNHCR cash assistance is working well.
  - Health care system needs a systematic improvement in Moldova. Not only refugees from Ukraine, but also Moldovan people need to wait long to get a medical appointment.
- **IOM reported as follows:**
  - The rental assistance is being provided to 13 households in Gagauzia. The current rental assistance programme is finishing at the end of December and the new modality is currently under discussion.
  - There are 13 entrepreneurship grant projects ongoing (10 Ukrainians and 3 Moldovans), building up a playground for children or a center for violence.
  - IOM continues providing information for refugees and Moldovan communities.
  - Key needs identified in Comrat include rental assistance, firewood and financial support for medical supplies.
- **Police** reported that there were some thief cases in Gagauzia by people from Ukraine transiting Gagauzia region. Some cases are not prosecuted because the suspect is always out of country when the incident was found out.
- **Coordinator of UNHCR Community Center** reported that the center is conducting many activities whose objectives are to help refugees integrate into the society. The number of activities is decreasing due to the beginning of schools. The center will start providing Romanian classes since January, and there were requests for Turkish language course. The center is open for collaborations and all organizations are invited to contact them if they need a space for their activities.
- **Diaconia** reported that the organization is operating a cash registration center in Comrat with three staffs, conducting verification and activation of cash assistance. In the last month, 50 mobile teams were conducted in Comrat and the surrounding areas.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Social Assistance Department of Ceadir-Lunga</b> reported that Diaconia was refusing the cash registration for people from Ceadir-Lunga and referring them to go to the cash registration center in Cahul. Diaconia replied that they were doing so due to the limited capacity. However, people from Ceadir-Lunga prefer to visit the cash center in Comrat.</li> <li>• <b>Head of Taraclia</b> proposed to create a new bureau of migration in Taraclia.</li> <li>• <b>Biz Gul reported as follows:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– The organization is operating a center for victims of violence and providing GBV prevention programmes and shelters for Moldovan and Ukrainian women. Women can be accommodated in their center up to 6 months.</li> <li>– They also conduct two mobile teams in Gagauzia funded by Solidarites International, providing legal assistance and MHPSS while identifying GBV victims.</li> <li>– The other activities include dissemination of NFIs such as diapers, health-related case management supported by ACTED to provide medical vouchers for refugees.</li> <li>– A severe problem in Comrat is a lack of vocational trainings. Professional courses for women are not provided in Comrat anymore.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>International Blue Crescent</b> reported that the organization in partnership with the German Charity Fund. They support public health institutions by providing them with medical equipment and ambulance vehicles. The Eco Project is ongoing in partnership with around 50 different local entities to plant trees in Gagauzia. The collaboration with the local public authorities is going well and there is no challenge at the moment.</li> <li>• <b>Ave Copii</b> reported that the RAC in Kongaz has an issue with the central heating system, allegedly due to the failed bill payments. There are 75 people living in this RAC and the issue should be treated urgently.</li> <li>• <b>Cimisilia</b> reported that there was no problem in the RAC in Cimisilia.</li> <li>• <b>Psycho-pedagogical center in Gagauzia</b> reported that they are providing educational programme to 74 refugee children, out of which 13 are attending the Ukrainian online curriculum. The challenge for Ukrainian refugee children is that they have to learn both Romanian and Gagauz language to pass exams at school. It will be great to have an</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNHCR will notify this issue to Diaconia FP.</li>   <li>• UNHCR will notify the issue to Basic Needs WG.</li> </ul>
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	extracurricular course of Gagauz language so that the children can develop and have a successful learning at schools.	
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**6. Details of the Next Meeting**

<b>Date</b>	TBC
<b>Time</b>	TBC
<b>Venue</b>	TBC