



Palanca Local Coordination Meeting

Meeting Minutes – 15 November 2023

1. Meeting Details

Date	15 November 2023
Time	12:00 – 13:30
Chair	Volokh Karina, UNHCR Snr. Field Assistant
Reporting	Derli Niolae, ACTED
Email	volokh@unhcr.org; nicolae.derli@acted.org

2. Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Update on recent developments in Palanca Bus Station (PBS)
3. Activity updates from participants
4. 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)

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|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| - Karina Volokh, UNHCR | - Nicolae Derli, ACTED |
| - Mihail Macovetchi, CDA | - Roman Lipadat, ACTED |
| - Cristina Babin, INTERSOS | - Grigore Scraba, GSS security |
| - Diana Negru, BLUE DOT | - Olga Costenco, IOM |
| - Stela Satova, UNFPA | - Martin Kunze, Youth one World |

5. Information collection and relevant links,

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/Actions
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR shared updates on recent developments in Palanca Bus Station (PBS) as follows: 	



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Ms. Karina Volokh,
UNHCR Snr. Field
Assistant,
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- Coordination Meeting: On 20 September 2023, the Local Refugee Coordination Meeting was held by UNHCR at PBS, attended by ACTED, INTERSOS, UNFPA, IGSU, BLUE DOT, IsraAid, IOM and ACR. In the meeting, UNHCR provided updates regarding the recalibration process of the bus station.
- Mobile team:
 - On 19 September 2023, the Mobile Team, consisted of UNHCR, CDA and INTERSOS, visited Popeasca RAC and provided legal assistance, information on the Temporary Protection (TP), and registration for those who have not yet done so. The session also touched upon the enrolment process of children into Moldovan schools. The visit was attended by 46 people (6 men, 31 women and 9 children). Among the main concerns raised by the refugees are impossibility for Roma people to enrol their children in Popeasca school and the lack of a school bus that could take children from the centre to the Russian school in Stefan Voda.
 - On 14 November 2023, the Mobile Team, consisted of UNHCR, CDA and INTERSOS, visited Talmază village and provided legal assistance, information on TP and registration for those who have not yet done so. The visit was attended by 27 people (9 men and 18 women). During the visit, the team received some requests for help with air transfers and a refrigerator for a family was received.
- Visits:
 - On 21 September 2023, UNHCR received a delegation of World Food Programme (WFP) at PBS. The purpose of the visit was to see the distribution of travel food kits to refugees by the ACR.
 - On 25 September 2023, UNHCR received a delegation of the Bureau of Population, Refugee and Migration (PRM) of the United States Department of State. The purpose of the visit was for their staff to see activities and procedures provided by the Government of Moldova at the Palanca border crossing point as part of the overall refugee response.



- **Evacuations:** UNHCR received the following 10 evacuations operated by the GLORIA organization during the past weeks. The evacuees received services at PBS and left for Romania with IOM bus.

	Date	# of evacuees	Transported to
1	24 September 2023	17	Romania (IOM)
2	2 October 2023	31	Romania (IOM)
3	5 October 2023	12	Romania (IOM)
4	9 October 2023	25	Romania (IOM)
5	12 October 2023	19	Romania (IOM)
6	16 October 2023	25	Romania (IOM)
7	19 October 2023	24	Romania (IOM)
8	6 November 2023	35	Romania (IOM) and other cities in Moldova (ACTED)
9	9 November 2023	20	Romania (IOM) and other cities in Moldova (ACTED)
10	13 November 2023	22	Romania (IOM)

- **AoB:**
 - On 26 September 2023, the Local Consultation for the Refugee Response Plan 2024 was held in Causeni to discuss and identify priorities, challenges and solutions for the refugee response in the year 2024.
 - On 29 September 2023, workers from Bertontrans started the recalibration work at PBS by removing 4 containers (2 rented by UNHCR and 2 rented by ACTED). The removal of the containers will continue on 2 and 4 October 2023.
 - On 18 October 2023, UNHCR organized a participatory assessment with CCR in Volontiri village in Stefan Voda district. Six refugees and three host community members participated and shared concerns such as lack of firewood for winter period and language barrier. They also mentioned that the cash assistance by UNHCR is not sufficient to cover essential/primary needs. During the discussion, UNHCR received a request from two refugees to help them with glucometers to measure the blood sugar.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ On 19 October 2023, UNHCR organized a participatory assessment with INTERSOS in Gradinita village in Causeni district. Seven refugees participated and shared concerns such as lack of firewood for winter period, lack of public transport, language barrier and the insufficiency of UNHCR cash assistance to cover essential/primary needs.○ On 7 November 2023, a new meter was installed at PBS as per a request by Premier Energy.○ On 10 November 2023, UNHCR received a visit of IOM PSEA regional consultants.	
Activity updates from participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● CDA reported that there had been a higher influx of asylum seekers through the green border zone in the last two months. The flow of minors has decreased. Similar incidents are happening daily where people are fined for exceeding the 90-day stay in Moldova, which are reported to UNHCR weekly. 22,700 people have received TP status so far.● Youth One World reported that the organization is working with children and addressing pre-school immigration issues in collaboration with Concordia NGO.● INTERSOS mentioned that all their activities are ongoing as planned. In addition, the organization started psychological group activities at UNHCR Community Service Center in Causeni every Monday and at Olanesti Lyceum every Friday. They are also conducting psychological activities targeted to adolescents.● IOM reported that a total of 329 people (45 males, 197 females, 87 children) were transported to Romania by IOM buses from 19 September 2023 until 14 November 2023. No major change is foreseen in their operation.● Blue Dot reported as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Their activities at PBS are ongoing as usual in their three containers divided by age groups: a room for mothers and children aged 0-3, a room for psycho-emotional support targeted to children aged 3-6, and a room for adolescents. A social worker is stationed at PBS, addressing unaccompanied and separated children.– Some collaborative activities has been conducted in several centres in Stefan Voda to provide housing support.	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The mobile team travels through villages in Stefan Voda on Tuesdays and Thursdays, holding three sessions in each village. In September, 41 children and 76 adults were supported, and from November 1st until now, 26 children and 23 adults were assisted. • UNFPA announced about a new distribution of vouchers for women aged 12-24 to buy personal items for personal menstrual hygiene within the country, in effect until the end of December 2023. PBS visitors can apply for the programme by registering themselves with their phone number and passport number. In coordination with ACTED and INTERSOS, they aim to distribute them to those in need in the country. These vouchers are also distributed in the southern regions in collaboration with an organization Home Care. Other winter kits are distributed in all regions. • GSS security reported that no unusual situations were identified. They reminded the participants to be aware of electric cables during the recalibration process of PBS, especially in the playground when groups of children arrive. • ACTED reported as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The organization is working as usual, and the number of beneficiaries requesting the transportation assistance has been increasing since September 2023. – Since 20 September 2023, 357 people (82 Male, 140 Female, 82 boys, and 62girls) had been transported in the southern part of Moldova, including but not limited to movement from the border. Most of them are using the transportation for TP registration at IGM offices in Hagimus and in Chisinau, for cash registration, and for relocation due to the closure of RACs. – On 11 November 2023, we received refugees from Gaza and four buses left for Ukraine. Many of those were accommodated and provided clothes and food vouchers. – Starting this week (the week of 13 November 2023), ACTED information team will start distributing leaflets about the transportation service in the southern part of the country. 	
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6. Details of the Next Meeting	
Date	13 December 2023
Time	12:00 – 13:00
Venue	Palanca Bus Station