



Otaci Local Coordination Meeting

Meeting Minutes – 23 January 2024

1. Meeting Details

Date	23 January 2022
Time	11:00 - 13:00
Chair	Adela Glodeanu, UNHCR Senior Field Assistant
Reporting	Adela Glodeanu, UNHCR Senior Field Assistant
Email	glodeanu@unhcr.org

2. Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Recent Developments in Otaci BCP
3. Activity updates
4. 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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| - Dimitrie Zavrotchii, Otaci Mayor, City Hall; | - Faureanu Natalia, Coordinator, Blue Dot; |
| - Glodeanu Adela, Field Assistant, UNHCR; | - Grama – Cojocaru Nicolae, Social Assistant, UNFPA; |
| - Mariana Grama, Monitor, NRC | - Margarita Pavlenko, Monitor, Right to Protection; |
| - Merjievski Serghei, Field Assistant, IOM; | - Voiciuc Svetlana, Monitor, Right to Protection; |
| - Rostislav Covi, Legal Advisor, CDA; | - Preda Alexei – Mediator Bahtalo Ker; |
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5. Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
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<p>Introduction</p> <p>UNHCR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● UNHCR shared the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – UNHCR welcomed participants and thanked them for their hard work and considerable involvement in working with refugees. – Participants were informed of the completion of the insulation works in the Otaci City Hall building by ACTED with the support of UNHCR. – UNHCR reminded the participants of the importance of TP registration by 31 January 2024 to continue receiving the cash assistance from UNHCR. – UNHCR informed the participants that those who hold Moldovan citizenship are not eligible for the cash assistance from UNHCR. 	
<p>City Hall</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mayor shared the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The Mayor welcomed participants to the meeting and thanked everyone for the great work they accomplished last year. He wished all good luck in the new year and a beautiful collaboration. – He reported that there were no major changes during the last two weeks. – He mentioned that the mayor’s office has received a higher number of requests for support to mothers with young children recently. One of the problems faced by mothers is the lack of diapers. The City Hall has a very small stock of diapers and would like to ask for support in providing diapers. – He shared a concern regarding the absence of a refugee database. Many Ukrainian citizens are crossing the border simply to receive humanitarian aid from various organizations and returning back to Ukraine. – The mayor mentioned about a public toilet in Otaci, which is used by both the local community and foreigners crossing the border. The toilet was maintained last year by Solidarite International, but there is no one to maintain it at the moment. The Mayor asked for support in the facility maintenance. – The Mayor thanked the UNHCR and ACTED for the work done to insulate the Town Hall, making the building much better in terms of energy efficiency and aesthetic appearance. ● Right to Protection that no major changes had been observed during the last two weeks and the border activity was ongoing as usual. The flow of people has been constant and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● UNHCR will follow up for the donation of diapers. ● UNHCR will reach out to Basic Needs WG.



some entries of third country nationals were observed, namely from Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Turkey. These people are not allowed to enter Ukraine once they exit the country. In exceptional cases where involvement of specialists is needed, people are referred to the Otaci bus station to receive the necessary help.

- **CDA** shared the following:
 - CDA specialist explained several types of legal protection and the importance of TP registration to continue receiving the cash assistance from UNHCR. He also clarified the legal aspect of the 45 days in the context of obtaining the TP.
 - CDA specialist notified that the Border Police is ending the emergency working schedule and that their working hours will be restored to normal.
 - Due to the ongoing structural change of the social assistance system, the social assistance department is now under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. At the moment, social assistance departments in Otaci and Ocnita do not have a guardianship specialist to come to the border when unaccompanied and separated children cross the border because this position was removed from the social assistance department. In case of unaccompanied and separated children are at the border, Border Police will contact NGO "Ave Copii". In December, there were two cases of unaccompanied children crossing the border. The issues were solved by social workers.
 - In the last months, the crossing at the Ukrainian border was interrupted very often due to the missile alarm. Considering the frequency of the interruption, the Ukrainian Border Police decided to allow the border crossing on foot even while the alarm is on. However, the border crossing by vehicles will still be prohibited during the alarm.
 - There has been a small increase in the number of third country nationals encountering problems crossing the border in both Moldova and Ukraine, mainly those from Egypt, Turkmenistan, Nigeria, Russian, and Armenia.
- **IOM** shared the following:
 - In the last two weeks, no one has requested transport support, 160 people requested medical support, and four SIM cards were distributed.



- Since 1 November 2023, IOM has been distributing NFIs, especially clothes for all ages. These NFIs will be distributed at the Otaci Bus Station only for those who enter the Republic of Moldova for the first time.
- During the reporting period, IOM provided support to 257 beneficiaries, out of which 10 were transported to Iasi. 38 winter kits for children were provided. Although there have been an increasing number of requests from third-country nationals for support to get documents and to return to their country of origin, IOM no longer provides the service to support third country nationals for their documents and flight tickets.
- **NRC** shared the following:
 - Winter clothes were distributed in November and December 2023. And in January, NRC received requests for winter assistance (blankets, winter clothes and electric heaters) from 396 refugee families and 85 hosting families. On the contrary, there have been few requests for firewood. Seven refugee families received cash assistance for gas and electricity bills.
 - NRC also provided legal support to refugees and registered refugees for TP.
 - NRC will soon start a project on house repair and replacement of windows, doors, and roofs of vulnerable refugees. An assessment was carried out last week.
 - NRC mentioned that they have baby diapers in stock but a condition for distribution is that people can only benefit from this support once. And they are distributed 30% to the local community and 70% to refugees.
- **BlueDot** shared the following:
 - In the last two weeks, 386 beneficiaries (216 women, 95 men, 37 girls and 38 boys) have been referred for support, of which 192 for the first time, 141 for twice, and 53 people for more than twice. There were four women, five men, and three boys with disability. There were also five men who irregularly crossed the border.
 - The team is continuing its activities with children from both local community and refugee from Ukraine as well as their parents who are citizens of Republic of Moldova and refugees from Ukraine.
 - In the last month, 14 children participated in four activities for children aged 0-6 years, 20 children participated in five activities targeted to 7-12 years old, and four children



	<p>participated in an activity targeted to children above 12 years old. Six activities were organized for parents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – There was also a joint activity with children aged 0-12 and their parents where 24 children and 8 parents participated. – Starting from 1 January 2024, BlueDot is operational from 9 am to 9 pm. – BlueDot mentioned their staff’s availability to support the TP registration if needed. • Bahtalo Ker shared that both the laundry space and the shower had been open for the vulnerable local community and the number of users has been constant. Women and men from the local community are receiving the hairdressing service for free. • UNFPA shared that 215 beneficiaries were registered for TP in the last month, of which 183 women and 32 men. 	
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6. Details of the Next Meeting	
Date	06 February 2024
Time	11:00 - 12:30
Venue	Otaci Mayor Office