



Otaci Local Coordination Meeting

Meeting Minutes – 20 February 2024

1. Meeting Details

Date	20 February 2022
Time	11:00 - 12:30
Chair	Catalina Sampaio, UNHCR Operations Officer Alexandra Cuznetova, UNHCR Field Assistant
Reporting	Hideaki Kojima, UNHCR Associate Field Officer
Email	kojima@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)

- Vladimir Viscun, Deputy Mayor, City Hall;
- Catalina Sampaio, Operations Officer, UNHCR;
- Alexandra Cuznetova, Field Assistant, UNHCR;
- Hideaki Kojima, Associate Field Officer, UNHCR;
- Pierre Alejandro Chacon Zambrano, Inter-Agency UNHCR;
- Natalia Stelea, Field Associate, UNHCR;
- Merjievski Serghei, Field Assistant, IOM;
- Faureanu Natalia, Coordinator, Blue Dot;
- Grama – Cojocaru Nicolae, Social Assistant, UNFPA;
- Voiciuc Svetlana, Monitor, Right to Protection;
- Yulia Pyndus, ACTED;
- Vasile Tcaci, Specialist, Social Assistance Ocnita
- Adrian Mergerint, Specialist, Social Assistance Ocnita
- Nicolae Derli, ACTED; (online)



- Rostislav Covdii, Legal Advisor, CDA;

5. Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p>Introduction</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR thanked the Otaci City Hall for supporting the organization of the meeting and welcomed some new participants who joined the meeting, followed by a round of self-introduction. • Deputy Mayor updated that the situation at the border remains stable and unchanged in the last two weeks, and most people arriving at the Otaci Bus Station is to access to medical support. On 16 February 2024, there was an explosion on the railroad in Mohyliv-Podil's'kyi allegedly as an attempt to block the transfer of goods on the train, but no damage was identified. 	
<p>Revision of procedure to secure accommodation for persons arriving at BCP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR explained objectives of the discussion as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – In the previous sessions of the Local Refugee Coordination Forum, UNHCR has been receiving feedbacks from the local actors present in Otaci about the unclarity of procedure to secure accommodation for those arriving at Otaci BCP, especially outside of the working hours of the local partners. UNHCR is thankful to MLSP for attending the meeting today to discuss problems and clarify the procedure. Following the discussion today, the Standard Operation Procedure of the Otaci Bus Station will be updated and shared to all local partners. – There could be two main scenarios: (1) A person enters Moldova through the BCP and approaches the Information Point at BCP; (2) A person enters Moldova in an irregular manner through Dniester River and approaches to one of the local partners present at Otaci Bus Station. <p><u>SCENARIO 1:</u> <u>A person enters Moldova through the BCP and approaches the Information Point at BCP</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNFPA, BlueDot, CDA and ACTED are present at the information point at BCP and they are in charge of identifying and conducting a first screening of the person. If the person needs an accommodation, the person should be referred to ACTED booth, where the person can 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR will consult with MLSP and IGM to clarify the procedure and update the SOP of Otaci Bus Station.



make a phone call to Green Line by themselves to find a temporary accommodation. Once the person is allocated to a RAC, ACTED will be in charge of providing transportation for the person to the RAC.

- The temporary accommodation can be provided only through the Green Line. People also should be informed that RACs are temporary option and can only accommodate people up to three months. Persons crossing the border should be informed of a possibility to live in a private accommodation with the support of rental assistance programmes.
- The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection is currently sorting out criteria of persons with a particular vulnerability who can continue staying in RACs – including persons with disabilities, older persons above 60 years old, pregnant women, mothers with more than three children, etc. People who can live on their own should live in a private accommodation since it is not anymore an emergency phase in the Republic of Moldova.
- Responding to the stabilization of situations in the country, the recalibration of services at the borders and the consolidation of the Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) are ongoing. Once a person in need of accommodation is identified after the working hours of ACTED and Green Line, the person should be referred to UNHCR Focal Point and UNHCR will contact MLSP for an identification of an accommodation. After that, UNHCR will contact ACTED for transportation support.
- Since it is not an emergency situation anymore, we need to understand that we cannot provide the services for 24/7 anymore.

SCENARIO 2:

A person enters Moldova in an irregular manner through Dniester River and approaches to one of the local partners present at Otaci Bus Station

- When a person irregularly crossing the border was identified, this person should be referred to the Border Police and IGM regardless of whether the person has an intention to apply for asylum in the Republic of Moldova or not. They must be documented first by IGM.
- If the person has an intention to apply for asylum in the country, this person will be accommodated in a Temporary Accommodation Centre (TAC) under IGM. If the person does not have an intention to apply for the asylum, this person cannot be accommodated



	<p>neither in RACs nor in TACs. Therefore, this person is asked to find accommodation on their own.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IGM has to clarify what will happen if IGM does not have a space to accommodate the person in question 	
<p>Update from organizations</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deputy Mayor shared that many people who have dual citizenship of Ukraine and Moldova applied for the Temporary Protection in the last few weeks. Many cases were observed where people came from Ukraine to apply for the TP status by using a random address. The current regulation is too loose, and everyone can apply for it and benefit from it. • UNHCR added that UNHCR cash assistance is now linked to TP status and UNHCR has a verification process to ensure the cash beneficiaries are living in Moldova. Local partners supporting in the pre-registration of TP beneficiaries are asked to be particularly mindful when conducting a pre-registration. People residing in Donduseni should be referred to staff in UNHCR Community Service Centre in Donduseni. Humanitarian agencies do not have a capacity to investigate, and therefore, we eventually have to believe what an applicant is claiming, but it is important to be careful of possible frauds. • IOM reported that three people were transported to Romanian and a few people receiving medical assistance. 80 kits of clothes for children were distributed. Three people were supported with Air Transfer programme. • CDA reported that eight asylum claims were made in the last two weeks. Apart from that, the TP pre-registration, legal assistance (in person and over phone call) were provided. There were few cases of overstay as well. • Right to Protection reported that they continued to monitor the situation at the border point on Ukrainian side and provide legal consultations. • UNFPA reported that 110 consultations were provided in the last week, providing information on TP and psychological counselling. • BlueDot reported that 93 people were received in the last two weeks. • Bahtalo Ker reported that the working hour of the facility would be from 9 to 16 on all weekdays, instead of two days a week. In case where local partners identified Roma 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IOM will share the information about Air Transfer programme to the local partners and RACs.



	<p>refugees in need of accommodation, Bahtalo Ker can be reached out and might be able to liaise with other Roma organizations to find an accommodation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACTED reported that the transportation supported would be reduced to some days in a week, not every day. ACTED can still provide transportation on ad-hoc basis.	
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6. Details of the Next Meeting

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