



## Transnistria Region Local Refugee Coordination Forum Meeting at City Club Hotel

Meeting Details	
Date	16 07 2024 - Next meeting TBC
Time	10.00 – 12.00
Chair	Cazacu Andrei, Field Team
Reporting	Cazacu Andrei, Field Team
Email	<a href="mailto:cazacu@unhcr.org">cazacu@unhcr.org</a>
Agenda	
<i>Introduction of the Transnistria LRCF</i>	
<i>Update on UNHCR and IOM Cash Assistance</i>	
<i>Updates from all organizations on key achievements and main challenges</i>	
Information collection and relevant links	
<a href="http://moldova.servicesadvisor.net/en">moldova.servicesadvisor.net/en</a>	
Participants	



Vavic Iva – UNHCR  
Postaru Natalia -UNHCR  
Koval Olena – UNHCR  
Cazacu Andrei – UNHCR  
Chacon Pierre – UNHCR  
Clichici Laura – IOM  
Moisevici Natalia – IOM  
Timagina Elena – IOM  
Shekinova Anna – CDA  
Siniha Elena – NGO Agency of Inovation and Development  
Fomenko Vladimir – NGO Cooperation

Bogaci Tatiana – NRC  
Gvalia Eka – NRC  
David-Cimpoiev Daniela – OHCHR  
Abramov Iuliana – OHCHR  
Boclnia Oleksii – OHCHR  
Popescul Veaceslav - CDA  
Novicova Kristina – NGO Resonance  
Vilhovaya Janna - Alliance for Public Health  
Yasipova Marina - NGO Motivation  
Stavenskaya Mariana – NGO Interaction  
Pavlenko Andrei – NGO Women Initiative



## Summary of discussions and agreements / action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p>1. <i>Update on UNHCR and IOM Cash Assistance</i></p>	<p><b>Andrei Cazacu – UNHCR</b> greeted the participants and introduced the UNHCR colleagues. Following an introduction of the agenda points, the participants introduced themselves.</p> <p><b>Natalia Postaru - UNHCR</b> provided an update on the eligibility criteria for receiving cash assistance. UNHCR clarified the steps involved in the changes to the eligibility criteria and the interviews conducted to understand the beneficiaries' levels of vulnerability. Lastly, the Agency also informed of the reconsideration process for beneficiaries who were initially denied cash assistance from UNHCR.</p> <p><b>Natalia Moisevici - IOM</b> gave a refresher on referral pathways, speaking on behalf of both UNHCR and IOM. IOM informed the participants about the working groups responsible for each sector and detailed the steps to complete forms to refer cases to partners. IOM also mentioned that Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Child Protection packages are distributed regionally, covering the south, north, and center of the country. Attendees were also recommended to update information on Services Advisor, noting that the platform has coverage in Tiraspol.</p> <p><b>Laura Clichici – IOM</b> announced a new project launched by IOM in partnership with WHO, running from April 1 to December 31. This project involves training intermediary organizations in the health sector and is available in the Transnistrian Region. Through</p>	<p><b>Activity:</b></p> <p><b>Responsible:</b></p> <p><b>Deadline:</b></p> <p>New organizations, and those without credentials to register on Services Advisor can contact <a href="mailto:cazacu@unhcr.org">cazacu@unhcr.org</a> to request credentials.</p>



<p>2. General updates from all humanitarian actors</p>	<p>this project, information sessions on temporary protection are provided to inform citizens from Ukraine about the accessibility of medical services and the privileges associated with obtaining temporary protection in both the Transnistrian region and on the right bank of the Dniester.</p> <p><b>Veceslav Popescul – CDA</b> communicated that many men fleeing Ukraine are arriving in the Transnistrian region fearing being caught and sent back to Ukraine, which leads them to avoid obtaining legal status in Moldova. These individuals face problems accessing housing, food, and other types of humanitarian aid, with some among them being underage teenagers who avoid any kind of contact as much as possible. Additionally, many Ukrainians have difficulties booking appointments at the embassy. The Ukrainian House in Tiraspol assists refugees with documentation and offers consultations, helping people without biometric passports prepare the necessary documents for the embassy.</p> <p><b>Mariana Stavenskaya – NGO Interaction</b> reported that since the beginning of the year, over 1000 calls were received on the human trafficking prevention hotline, with 70% of the callers being refugees. These individuals were consulted according to their requests. NGO Interaction organized various activities on psychology, human rights, and gender equality, with approximately 300 participants. Activities for children benefited 150 children in the Transnistrian Region, and professional courses were provided for 14 beneficiaries, improving their material condition. Many of those who completed the courses obtained patents for their activities in IT or the beauty industry. Training sessions on "Professional Burnout" were also conducted, and excursions for parents and children to beautiful places in Transnistria and on the right bank of the Dniester were organized to allow parents to spend more time with their children. Legal and physical support was provided to persons with reduced mobility, including transport and assistance for obtaining Temporary Protection status.</p>	
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**Andrei Pavlenco – Woman Initiative** reported that since the beginning of the year, support was provided to 1500 Ukrainian refugees, including social-humanitarian, psychological, and legal assistance. The organization noted the psychological pressure and stress among refugees and emphasized the importance of assessing the refugees' condition to provide adequate support.

**Veceslav Popescul – CDA** stated that the flow of refugees seeking legal support remains constant, with many inquiries about the extension of Temporary Protection status. There is uncertainty among the refugees about the continuity of this status and how to proceed after it expires. The border police also recommend obtaining Temporary Protection status, directing individuals to the LCA from the border. CDA highlighted the challenge of irregular border crossings by men without proper clothing or documents, and the need to collaborate between organizations to assist these individuals.

**Eka Gvalia – NRC** reported that NRC has been working in the Transnistrian region since 2022, in partnership with Medical Social Program and the Alliance of Innovation and Development. NRC supports both refugees (70%) and local communities (30%), including third-country nationals. This year, the the orfganization is focusing on winterization assistance, providing financial support of 130 euros to cover basic needs for winter, targeting 1000 individuals.



	<p><b>Marina Yasipova – Medical Social Program</b> provides information and legal support to refugees, informing them about their rights and access to medical and legal services in Transnistria. Additionally, 600 hygiene kits were distributed to mothers with young children and persons with disabilities in the first half of the year.</p> <p><b>Siniha Elena – Alliance of Innovation and Development</b> supports vulnerable individuals, including the elderly, mothers with children, single mothers, and refugees. The organization offers professional development courses, business and management training, and financial literacy education. Business consultations and legal support are also provided, with grants of \$5000 available for start-ups. Each beneficiary is guided by a mentor through the logistical steps. The Alliance supports various business sectors, including beauty, agriculture, and IT.</p>	
1. AOB.	<p><b>Questions and Answers on Cash Assistance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>What are the criteria for vulnerability?</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ UNHCR has changed the criteria for this year since June 2024. The updated targeting criteria involve assessing various factors indicating a refugee’s degree of vulnerability relate to household composition, accommodation, health, socio-economic status, and specific needs.</li><li>○ Individuals who have been verified and meet the prioritization targeting will remain in the payment program until the end of the year.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Will the criteria change this year, and will cases be reviewed for financial assistance?</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ There are no plans for another vulnerability criteria review this year.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>What is the deadline for submitting a request for a case review for cash assistance?</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Two weeks from the receipt of the SMS decision. The applications submitted within the two weeks will be prioritized for reconsideration.</li></ul></li></ul>	



Currently, it's important for UNHCR to review the cases that wasn't including in the continuation of the cash assistance, to exclude any errors.

- **Some beneficiaries did not receive an SMS. What should they do?**
  - We are aware of such cases. It would be helpful if local NGOs could assist these individuals in filling out the form. The access is via group number, and if the entry is unsuccessful, it may indicate that there was no denial of cash assistance.
- **An older person was denied assistance and asked to reapply under the basis that persons from Transnistrian region should receive assistance from IOM.**
  - Individuals have the opportunity to choose where they want to receive the cash assistance.
- **There are many complaints about operators who record information based on what people say and make many mistakes.**
  - Any person who disagrees with the decision can fill out the form to review their case.
- **Are there any humanitarian programs for those excluded from the cash assistance program?**
  - There are no special programs, but many organizations provide similar assistance. It's important to know about them and refer people to these organizations.