



Regional Refugee Response  
for the Ukraine Situation



**Basic Needs Working Group Meeting – 27<sup>th</sup> of May 2024**

**Meeting Details**

<b>Date</b>	27.05.2024
<b>Time</b>	15.00 pm
<b>Coordinator and Deputy-Coordinator</b>	Andrea Cuisana, UNHCR – Almothana Hasan, ACTED
<b>Reporting</b>	Almothana Hasan
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**Agenda**

1. RACs Update
2. Dashboard BN WG Achievement 2023
3. Update on the targeting criteria approach
4. GBV Safety Audit
5. Service mapping platform
6. Update from partners

**Information collection and relevant links**

[BNWG achievements 2023](#)

[UNFPA Moldova | GBV Safety Audit](#)

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**Participants**



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<i>Andrea Cuisana, UNHCR</i>	<i>Veronika Kovalchuk, CWS</i>	<i>Amin, ACF</i>
<i>Emmanuel Otika, UNHCR</i>	<i>Evghenii Cutia, DRC</i>	<i>Dumitru Burdenii, IFRC</i>
<i>Athina Nalmpanti, Acted</i>	<i>Senedu Negash, IOM</i>	<i>Daryna Kovtun, Acted</i>
<i>Natalia Stelea, UNHCR</i>	<i>Noor Bakhsh, UNICEF</i>	<i>Alina Alexei, WFP</i>
<i>Mihai Rotaru, MLSP</i>	<i>Zoe Kostitsi Papastathopoulou, DRC</i>	<i>Hanna Ursol, People in Need</i>
<i>Almothana Hasan, Acted</i>	<i>Gemma Bennett, Reach/Impact</i>	<i>Angela Cazacu-Stratu, Intersos</i>
<i>Popescu Eugen, UNHCR</i>	<i>Vlada Medvedcova, Acted</i>	<i>Aveen Khaleel, NRC</i>
<i>Iva Vavic, UNHCR</i>	<i>Gorceac Mihaela, Acted</i>	<i>Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR</i>
<i>Seanushka Sager UNHCR</i>	<i>Cazacu Andrei, UNHCR</i>	<i>Yigit Anil Gurer, UNHCR</i>

**Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points**

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p><b>1. Agenda point RACs Update</b></p>	<p>The coordinator welcomed participants, thanked them for their presence, and briefly presented the agenda, after which proceeded with the meeting.</p> <p><b>Group E RACs consolidation process</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Greblesti RAC, UID 153</b> officially closed, as of 9<sup>th</sup> April: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>07 HH/9 individuals were relocated in the RAC UID 66 Cojusna;</li> <li>02 HH/5 individuals were relocated to the RAC UID 36 Chisinau;</li> <li>02 HH/3 individuals were relocated to the RAC UID 126 Bulboaca.</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Costesti RAC, UID 237</b> officially closed, as of 14<sup>th</sup> May <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2HH/19 individuals were relocated to the RAC UID 5 in Congaz</li> <li>3HH/14 individuals were relocated in the RAC UID 44 Costesti, until they find a place to rent</li> <li>1HH/9 individuals were relocated in the RAC UID 126 Bulboaca</li> </ul> </li> <li><b>Cimislia RAC UID 245</b> - 24 people are accommodated in the center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>06 HH/20 applied to be relocated to private accommodations through rental assistance</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 02 HH/4 individuals, 1HH relocated to the RAC UID 36 in Chisinau and 1HH in the RAC UID 59, village Mihaileni;</li> </ul> <p><b>As challenges met, it was highlighted the following:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The HH relocated in Mihaileni, would prefer relocation in Chisinau,</li> <li>• Rental assistance partner didn't accept the handwritten contract,</li> <li>• Difficulties to find a place to rent with proper conditions and a fair price,</li> <li>• The RAC manager, who is a beneficiary is in discussions with Town Hall to rent a room in the current RAC.</li> </ul> <p>4. <b>Chisinau RAC, UID 573</b> - 18HH/45 individuals are currently residing in the RAC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8HH/19 individuals applied to the Rental Assistance program,</li> <li>• 10HH/26 individuals requested relocation in another,</li> <li>• 6HH/17 individuals were relocated to another RAC to relocate,</li> <li>• 4HH/9 individuals, PwD and mothers with small children are waiting for a decision from MLSP to be relocated to another center.</li> </ul> <p>5. <b>Chisinau RAC, UID 1091</b> – 15HH/28 individuals are currently residing in the RAC,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 13HH/24 requested to be relocated to another RAC</li> <li>• 9HH/14 already received a place from MLSP</li> <li>• 4HH/10 individuals are still waiting for a decision (1HH wants to leave country, but first they need to find a center to accommodate the mother with mental disability)</li> <li>• 1HH/2 individuals have departure from Moldova,</li> <li>• 1HH/2 individuals referred for rental assistance program</li> </ul> <p>Beginning of June – all centers in Group E are expected to be close.</p> <p><b>MLSP provided the list of RACs from Group F</b> to be closed as part of the Consolidation strategy, the process will start in June:</p> <p>RAC UID 44, Costesti, Ialoveni: 30 people accommodated (4 individuals 60+, 14 children)</p> <p>RAC UID 210, Causeni: 16 people</p> <p>RAC UID 117, Chisinau: 23 people accommodated (6 individuals 60+, 6 children)</p>	
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	<p>RAC UID 137, UTA Gagauzia, village Copceac: 8 people accommodated (6 individuals are 60+, 1 PwD, 2 children) Beginning of June will start the closing process of the RACs from Group F.</p> <p><b>MLSP:</b> works to ensure that all vulnerable people are relocated. Many refuses relocation outside Chisinau, requesting a place in the city, which complicates the process. There are no available spaces in Chisinau.</p> <p><b>BN WG co-chair:</b> Site management analysis updates, data collected by Acted by monthly in RACs. Six priority NFIs have been identified for RACs, some of them are cleaning items, hygiene items, items for people with disabilities and elderly people and first aid kits</p> <p>A deeper assessment is underway to understand specific needs more accurately that will be completed shortly. The results will be shared. BN WG co-chairs are coordinating with MLSP to know the gaps and needs, also encourages partners to share the available resources from their organisation to coordinate efforts effectively.</p> <p><b>DRC:</b> confirmed supplies of individual hygiene kits, collective hygiene items.</p> <p><b>IOM:</b> confirmed supplies of hygiene sets, kitchen sets, bedding sets conducting distributions in areas prior identified. Details will be shared.</p> <p><b>UNHCR:</b> the stocks are reviewed, a large surplus of family hygiene kits and other items that could be distributed in RACS and community if there is a need.</p> <p><b>BN WG co-chair:</b> updates on the training package, on site management and protection awareness for RAC managers that starts in June, with three sessions. <i>The first module on June 3rd</i>, facilitated by IOM, will cover operational procedures. <i>The second module on June 5th</i>, facilitated by UNHCR, will focus on community engagement and AAP. <i>The final module on June 10th</i>, facilitated by IOM, will address staff well-being.</p> <p><b>MLSP</b> is supporting by providing a list of participants. 25 participants are expected to participate, including RAC managers and social assistants.</p> <p><b>BN WG co-chair:</b> The dashboard on the achievements of 2023 features information received from your organizations via Activity Info, as well as data from the matrix that was distributed.</p>	<p>Share the results of the NFI assessment</p> <p>IOM to share the details of their distribution</p>
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<p><b>2. Agenda points</b> Dashboard BN WG Achievement 2023</p>	<p><b>Dashboards includes:</b> Basic needs for RACs, community infrastructure, and rental assistance.</p> <p>Using this data, a dashboard was created to visualize our work. If any of your activities are not listed, please inform us so we can include them. The objective is to identify gaps and encourage more active uploading of information into Activity Info. <b>For more details, kindly refer to the link <a href="#">BN WG achievements 2023</a></b></p>	<p>Partners to let know if some activity is not included in the dashboard</p> <p>Give feedback on the dashboard, or upload data for 2024</p>
<p><b>3. Agena point</b> Update on the targeting criteria approach</p>	<p><b>CWG coodinator:</b> updates on the changes in cash assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eligibility Criteria: Conditions that determine who qualifies for assistance.</li> <li>- Prioritization: Ranking eligible individuals to decide who receives assistance first when resources are limited.</li> <li>- Reduce Target Population: Focus on the most vulnerable individuals</li> <li>- Decrease Transfer Value: Allow assistance to reach more people by reducing the amount given.</li> <li>- Limit Duration of Assistance: Provide assistance for a specified period (e.g., 1-3 months).</li> </ul> <p>Targeting methods: status based, geographical location, categorical, community-based, Scorecard, self-selection, case by cases, proxy means testing.</p> <p>Vulnerability categorization, three variables: economic capacity, negative coping, food consumption;</p> <p>Vulnerability groups: Extremely vulnerable, highly vulnerable, moderately vulnerable, not vulnerable.</p> <p><b>In Moldova Scorecard system approach.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agreed upon in the Cash Working Group.</li> <li>- Provides a common tool for assessing vulnerability and prioritization.</li> <li>- Allows different actors to assist refugees based on available resources.</li> <li>- Easier adaptability compared to other targeting methods and government social assistance schemes.</li> </ul>	



	<p>Vulnerable groups considered due to their specific needs: elderly, disabled individuals, people with chronic diseases or serious medical conditions</p> <p>A workshop was conducted to gather community perspectives and feedback. Over 4500 interviews conducted, which is equal with 4500 HH.</p> <p>This assessment will conclude at the end of first week of June. People will be informed by SMS who is eligible and who not.</p> <p>These changes aim to optimize resource allocation and effectively support the most vulnerable populations. For further details kindly review the presentation attached.</p> <p><b>BN WG:</b> How this new methodology will affect the activities of BNWG partners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will the same scorecard approach for cash assistance be applied to NFIs, the same selective targeting approach?</li> <li>- This is especially relevant to NFI distribution outside the RACs.</li> <li>- In the context of the consolidation process, if refugees no longer receive cash support, will they be considered for reallocation to other RACs rather than being asked to leave?</li> </ul> <p>The analysis raises the question of whether the number of beneficiaries will be reduced.</p> <p><b>CWG:</b> Currently, 27,000 individuals benefit from UNHCR cash assistance, this number will decrease through a more targeted approach. The exact number to be reduced is still under consideration and will be determined as the process progresses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The number of individuals we can target depends on our available resources.</li> <li>- More discussions are needed on how the new targeting criteria will affect the consolidation process, there are other programs to support the process, like support for rent.</li> <li>- UNHCR provides multi-purpose cash assistance, but other partners offer different types of support.</li> <li>- The exercise aims to categorize vulnerabilities as extreme, high, moderate, or low.</li> <li>- The scoring system will be integrated into the RAISE system, allowing partners to see scores and prioritize accordingly.</li> <li>- Collaboration and alignment with MLSP criteria will be essential.</li> <li>- Partners should leverage the scoring system to ensure efficient resource allocation and continued support for those in need.</li> <li>- The Scorecards will help determine the best course of action for supporting displaced persons and managing RACs.</li> </ul>	
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<p>4. Agenda point GBV Safety Audit</p>	<p><b>MLSP:</b> The state cannot afford to maintain the RACs. There is a need to integrate people and provide more support to those most in need.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Current regulations allow a 90-day stay in the centres. After 90 days, a social services assessment determines if the stay will be extended based on vulnerability.</li> <li>- Depending on the assessment, individuals will either continue their stay or be redirected to other support programs, such as National Employment Agency, etc.</li> </ul> <p><b>BNWG:</b> We need the results once the Cash Working Group's process is complete. From our side, we can then start targeting those gaps. It's a work in progress, and we will work with the ministry to ensure that families do not remain without support.</p> <p>In 2022, we conducted a GBV safety audit in Moldova, identifying risks related to gender-based violence, particularly affecting women and girls, including Ukrainian refugees and host communities.</p> <p>In 2023, we conducted a second safety audit to understand if these risks remained or had changed.</p> <p>The findings from the safety audit will help the BN WG members to monitor and address GBV risks more effectively, to adjust if necessary to better mitigate these risks.</p> <p><b>Main findings in RACs:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- External visitors impact people's privacy: access to RACs not controlled.</li> <li>- Harassment by visitors</li> <li>- Men approaching RACs searching for partners.</li> <li>- Tensions among people living in RACs</li> <li>- Concealed areas avoided by women/girls</li> <li>- Some RACs had no information on SEA/GBV</li> <li>- No consistency in infrastructure to mitigate GBV risks</li> </ul> <p><b>Main findings in Private accommodation:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Concerns related to decrease in assistance</li> <li>- Challenges to find apartment</li> <li>- Sexual harassment from landlords (prior and during stay)</li> <li>- Offers from single men</li> </ul>	
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<p><b>5. Agenda point</b> Partner update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scams in rent</li> </ul> <p>For more details, kindly see the report attached and the link to the online version, available in English, Romanian and Russian: <a href="#">UNFPA Moldova   GBV Safety Audit</a></p> <p><b>ACTED:</b> the distribution of appliances in RACs was finalised. Appliances such as washing machines, fridges, and kettles were distribution based on a needs assessment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Last week finalized appliances distribution in 20 RACs, one part of distribution finalized</li> </ul> <p>Cash for Rent this week will visit 2 RACs (571 &amp; 36)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Infrastructure: Comrat kindergarten will be finalized by end of week</li> <li>- It is planned to do some infrastructure works in Ialoveni, Cojusna, child care facilities</li> </ul> <p><b>IOM:</b> Housing assessment is on-going, we are at the final stage, we are waiting for the publication and soon will share with the BN WG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rehabilitation in Comrat to be completed in the next 3 weeks</li> <li>- Rehabilitation of Donduseni Public Library to be completed in the next 3 weeks.</li> <li>- NFI: we have distributed NFI kits 225 HH in Balti, Ocnita and Riscani. We will share the details of the items distributed.</li> </ul> <p><b>DRC:</b> distribution of hygiene kits in Telenesti, Drochia, Donduseni, Cahul, Causeni for refugees and local community</p> <p><b>NRC:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assessed kindergartens in North. Next week we will make the BoQ and Technical Assessment and will select only 3 out of 5. Also, we have the shelter reparation in the North. However, there are other NGOs working there who already did the assessment. We did the NFI distribution, hygiene kits in Transnistria through our partners. By the end of this year, we intend to distribute NFI, but we will use cash modality based on the market assessment and feedback from beneficiaries.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="mailto:CAZACU@unhcr.org">CAZACU@unhcr.org</a></p> <p>Anyone interested in adding a service on the platform, to mail Andrei for more details.</p>
<p><b>6 Agenda point</b> Service mapping platform</p>	<p><b>RCF:</b> The Service Mapping Platform – a tool used to include all the services that organizations are providing in Moldova. There was one request to include shelter activities. So, we must discuss if we want to include shelter activities and which categories under shelter we want to include.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Accessible to all users, no authentication required.</li> <li>- Accessible only to users with an account.</li> <li>- The platform is completely free to use.</li> </ul>	<p>All partners to share PDM reports to start preparations for upcoming winterization.</p>





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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Users can leave feedback on the services.</li> <li>- Users can print the displayed information and share services on other platforms.</li> </ul> <p>This platform aims to make essential services easily accessible and user-friendly for all individuals in the Republic of Moldova.</p> <p><b>PiN:</b> is not conducting any housing activity.</p>	<p>BN WG to share the Renting guidelines.</p> <p>IOM to share the details of the items distributed.</p>
<p><b>Next meeting: 24 June</b></p>		