

Podkarpackie Coordination Group (PCG)

Date: 27.06.2024

Time: 11:00-13:00

Venue: Voivode's Office in Rzeszów

General Discussion Highlights:

Refugee accommodation issues in Podkarpackie	Action Points
<p>The Director of the Department of Social Policy informed participants that the situation in Podkarpackie was stable and that food and accommodation would be provided. The Voivodeship Office (VO) is satisfied with the level of security and those who needed support and accommodation in the province received the support they needed. VO stressed that the focus of its work will be on the integration, inclusion, and independence of refugees. The Director of the Social Policy Department of Podkarpackie VO stressed that their goal is to make refugees living in collective accommodation self-sufficient by September 2025.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ VO informed that both helplines 800 100 990 (Podkarpackie-run helpline for refugees looking for accommodation) and 987 (national helpline for people in crisis of homelessness) will work in Polish. ➔ VO informed that the relocation of refugees living in collective centres, which will be closed on 1 July, will take place in Podkarpackie. However, refugees may also be relocated to other voivodships. <p>The VO informed that agreements had been signed with 13 private shelters. the final list will be available in the second half of next week.</p>	<p>UNHCR: Through the Podkarpackie Group of Shelter Managers, monitor and provide updates to VO on situation regarding accommodation at collective sites.</p>
Protection monitoring, January – March 2024	Action Points
<p>The Protection Monitoring brief covered seven voivodeships: Dolnośląskie, Lubelskie, Małopolskie, Mazowieckie, Podkarpackie, Pomorskie, and Wielkopolskie.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➔ Over 1.7 million refugees from Ukraine have registered in Poland for TP since Feb 2022. ➔ 953,086 persons with active PESEL UKR as of 7 May 2024. ➔ 38% active PESEL UKR holders are children. ➔ Top Polish destinations: Mazowieckie, Dolnośląskie, Śląskie, Wielkopolskie i Małopolskie. <p>Over half of recent arrivals come from: Kharkivska, Kyiv City, Lvivska, Dnipropetrovska, Zaporizka.</p>	

New arrivals have a higher percentage of people who do not have education (8% of new arrivals compared to less than 1% of earlier arrivals). Also, unemployment in UA statistic changed dramatically. New arrivals reported that 21% of them were unemployed compared to 6% earlier arrivals. Increase is also observed in the number of men by seven percentage points compared to previous statistics.

Protection risks

Legal uncertainty

- Search for alternative pathways to legalize stay.
- Increase in application for international protection.
- Discrepancy in registration for diia.pl (49% men vs 63% women)

Labor exploitation:

- 225,000-350,000 refugees from Ukraine employed,
- 19% report not having a formal contract,
- 10% report not having regular access to earnings,
- 21% report working excessively long hours,
- 2% report having ID documents collected by employer,
- More than half report working below their skills and qualifications.

Lack of security of tenure (accommodation)

- Access to accommodation among most urgent need reported (27%)
- 13% of refugees renting accommodation report not having rental contract
- Approx. 40,000 refugees living collective sites from April 2024
- Reduced support without safeguards
- Risk of premature return

UNHCR calls to action:

- Access to stable forms of legal stay.
- Access to safe and decent employment.
- Access to dignified accommodation and long-term housing options.

The Towards Dialog Foundation provided some statistics on Roma refugees from Przemyśl. 32% of all Ukrainian refugees are Roma. In June there were 60 women, 190 children, no persons with disabilities, 5 pregnant women, 19 breastfeeding women, 0 people over 60 and 4 men.

Main activities of Foundation in Przemyśl are covering:

- ➔ Relocations (Kidałowice and Jarosław),
- ➔ Mediation between Roma families and public institutions,
- ➔ Support in resolving conflicts and social issues,
- ➔ Material support including water food and hygienic products,
- ➔ Advocacy activities.

Issues faced by the organization:

- ➔ The people who arrive and stay at the station are the weakest of the weak. They have experienced poverty and social exclusion in Ukraine, which affects their situation in Poland.
- ➔ Problems with accommodation / Increasingly fewer relocation opportunities.
- ➔ Insufficient number of staff. Lack of access to toilets.
- ➔ Lack of possibility to provide medicines.
- ➔ High level of illiteracy among the Roma community. Social tensions regarding the accessibility of the railway station. Deteriorating cooperation with local authorities.
- ➔ Prolonged emergency situations - people spend up to a week at the station.

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Action Points

Reception point in Przemyśl

- ➔ As of 1 July, the reception point will act as an information point, informing refugees about available accommodation (not only in Podkarpackie, but also throughout Poland) and where refugees can access free food and drinks. There will be no distribution of food, water or hygiene products.
- ➔ The information point will be the first place to which refugees who come to Poland for the first time should report.
- ➔ The point will be available only to Ukrainian refugees; other groups will not be served. Organizations can provide information for other groups on where to report.
- ➔ Mother and Child Point will be closed on 30 June.

UNHCR: Continue monitoring and gathering profile information of refugees arriving at Przemyśl Railway Station to provide updates to VO.

Relocation

- ➔ On 1 July, the city of Przemyśl will receive information on possible transport options.
- ➔ Transport will be covered by the *fund for assistance to citizens of Ukraine*.

Funding for accommodation and transport for those included in the Special Act is guaranteed. The voivodeship office has asked for support with interpretation.

Participants:

Organization	Name	Surname
Alight	Yordana	Potopliak
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Regional Refugee Response
for the Ukraine Situation

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