Małopolska Coordination Group Meeting

Meeting Minutes – 29 August 2024

Meeting subject:	Małopolska Coordination Group Meeting
Time & location:	9 am – UNHCR Krakow Sub-Office
Chaired by:	UNHCR, UNICEF
Minutes prepared by:	UNHCR
Participants:	UNHCR, UNICEF, Kuratorium Oświaty w Krakowie, Vela Foundation, Wojewódzki Urząd Pracy w Krakowie, Consulate General of Hungary, Zustricz Foundation, IB Polska, Unbreakable Ukraine Foundation, Wydział Edukacji Urzędu Miasta Kraków; IOM; Małopolski Urząd Wojewódzki; PCPM; Stowarzyszenie Patchwork
Agenda:	1. Introduction and updates from the co-chairs 2. Presentation by PCPM on the cash program "Together to Independence" 3. Presentation by UNICEF on Back to Learning campaign 4. Discussion on challenges due to education of refugee children 5. AoB
AGENDA POINT	**DISCUSSION**
Introduction and update on points from last meeting	Participants were welcomed to the 34th Małopolska Coordination Group (MCG) meeting. The meeting was chaired jointly by UNHCR and UNICEF due to the upcoming academic year 2024-2025 and legal changes in the education of Ukrainian children in Poland with the Special act.

Agenda point 1	PCPM presented the program "**Together to Independence**" which was established by the Ministry of Interior in partnership with PCPM and Polish Red Cross. • Timeframe of the program: April 2024 – March 2026 • Geographic area: entire territory of Poland. PCPM covers: Malopolskie, Slaskie, Podlaskie, Warminsko-Mazurskie, Wielkopolskie, Lubuskie, Zachodniopomorskie. PCK covers: Mazowieckie, Lubelskie, Podkarpackie, Opolskie, Dolnoslaskie, Kujawsko-Pomorskie, Swietokrzyskie, Lodzkie. • Objective of the program: supporting Ukrainian refugees in relocation from mass accommodation centers (OZZ) to private accommodation. Vocational and societal skills and competencies, necessary for the inclusion in the society. • Assistance is provided on first come, first served basis. • Project is not targeting the most vulnerable as these have limited options for self-reliance. • Project participant: a person, who is a citizen of Ukraine and is under temporary protection regime; has PESEL UKR number (attestation from the PESEL registry necessary); is registered as a person living in a mass accommodation center (OZZ) – attestation from the owner or the manager of the OZZ; is not a participant of a similar aid programs, particulary Cash for Rent. Refugee accepted to the program receives in writing a confirmation of inclusion in the program. • How to register for participation in the program: Разом до Незалежності - Fundacja Polskie Centrum Pomocy Międzynarodowej (pcpm.org.pl) 1. Register for the Program via the Formularz Zgłoszeniowy/Registration Form Реєстраційна форма до програми "Разом до Незалежності" / Formularz Zgłoszeniowy do programu "Wspólnie do Niezależności" (google.com) or send a manually completed application form to the PCPM contact details below. 2. One will be contacted by phone to confirm your registration. 3. We will meet with a participant to review one's documents and confirm one's eligibility for the Program. 4. After successful verification, one will receive a confirmation document on admission to the Program. 5. From the moment one are accepted into the Program, one have 30 days to find a suitable accommodation and submit a signed lease agreement. 6. After the conclusion of the Support Agreement, the co-financing will be transferred directly to the landlord's bank account.
Agenda point 2	UNICEF on behalf of the Education Sector Working Group (EWG) presented **Back to Learning program (BTL)**. • Back to Learning is dedicated to Ukrainian children living in Poland, who are encouraged to enroll to Polish schools for 2024-2025 academic year. • EWG prepared information materials in Ukrainian, Polish and English to be distributed among local and refugee community, including teachers, children and parents. Campaign is planned to last until November. • Link to materials: NEW APPROVED VISUALS - Google Drive • Ukrainian Ministry of Education has also launched program "School Offline". According to the ministry Ukrainian children cannot do home-schooling, Polish ministry will not support the realization of Ukrainian program. Language, literature, history and geography and defense will be included as an online component to Ukrainian school curriculum. Online

	schooling is complementary to the one in the country system. Polish schools are encouraged to provide an online learning lab for Ukrainian children. • There are planned meeting with Ukrainian influencers who will support BTL program and will encourage children to enroll to schools. • It is expected that in the middle of October there will more new arrivals children who will be interested in enrolling to schools, especially teenagers. • If any organization is planning activities related to education, there is a request to share an information with the Education Working Group. • UNICEF also shared learning materials and courses prepared for teachers. The materials are focused on: 1) managing stress and burnout 2) inclusive and intercultural education 3) support in crisis situations 4) learning Polish UNICEF • Another update is that Ministry of Education created a working group for supporting integration of refugee children, NGOs, UN agencies, national and internation organizations were invited to the group. UNICEF was also invited to the group.
Agenda point 3	• Problem with monitoring: there is no official data on how many refugee children are enrolled in Polish schools; UNICEF will monitor information from the ministry level; there is a plan to check on smaller cities after a month of schooling in October – they will compare number of children in September and October. • Problem also flagged by curatorium: many Ukrainian children are afraid to sign up for schools because of bullying. Spilno has leaflets on referral pathways in cases of bullying. • Intercultural assistants: there is a big base of intercultural assistance in Malopolskie. Before 2022 – there were around 30; now – 128. Aim to treat them not only as interpreters but also to include integration aspect. • According to the new ordinary, each school can hire assistant. • Parents are afraid to make complaints at school to not hurt their children; they prefer changing schools instead. • Some children are not learning Polish because their parents are waiting for return to Ukraine. • Curatorium: many children are not using properly the dedicated time for Polish language classes, many children are not integrating, don't assimilate in the new environment. • Curatorium: there are challenges with psychologists at schools, both Ukrainian and Polish children need their support but there is a low number of psychologists at schools which does not meet expectations. Sloneczna przestrzen – good practice, but in Krakow number reduced from 8 to 4. • Curatorium: we monitor school principals, also parents approach us and we guide them on Polish system and how it works, we refer parents to institutions.

	• UNICEF shared that they would appreciate support from organizations on sharing the same materials as they so it is unified; also it is important to highlight that if there is a lack of information on concrete topic it means that EWG does not have concrete answer yet and is waiting for confirmation. If any NGO receives new information, please share with EWG. • Spilno Hub shared that they will have Ukrainian language lessons; Polish language classes for teenagers (A2/B1); they also work with IOM on integration, handling bullying and violence.
AOB	UNHCR reminded that RRP 2025-2026 is planned. There will be workshop in Warsaw on 18-19th September with limited number of places and possibility to join online. Please register for participation, information was shared on e-mail. There is also a reminder about reporting, if you have any questions about activity info please ask amirat@unhcr.org

ACTION POINTS SUMMARY				
No.	**Action**	**Responsible**	**Deadline**	**Status** (as of)
1.	Regular update on the cash program during the coordination meeting	PCPM	Next coordination meeting	
2.	Share/ re-share with the coordination working group the materials for the back to learn campaign	UNHCR	Done	