

Livelihoods & Inclusion Working Group

2nd meeting, March 23, 2022

Online via Zoom

At the meeting participated 42 persons representing central and local authorities from Moldova, local and international NGOs, donors, and international organizations.

The aim of the Livelihoods and Inclusion Working Group is to ensure humanitarian-development nexus, with focus on:

- strengthening resilience of institutions and host communities.
- ensuring livelihoods of refugees through fostering economic inclusion;
- ensuring access to essential services; and
- fostering social cohesion between refugees and host communities

Current situation:

State Chancellery / Government:

- More than 100,000 refugees are staying in Moldova. The figure does not change significantly during the last two weeks. This number of refugees is high for Moldova.
- Across Moldova were open 104 centers for refugees, with 4600 places available. Local families host about 2/3 of refugees. The most significant number of refugees are staying in Chisinau and Balti municipality.
- Hosting families and refugees ask for support to cover the expenditures (electricity and gas bills) and food (vegetables, fruits, etc.).
- A considerable number of refugees need medical help, including specialized investigations.
- Kindergartens and primary schools (1 to 4 classes) are open for refugees from Ukraine. The pupils from 5 to 11 classes benefit from online schooling developed by the Ukrainian authorities.

National Agency for Employment:

- The companies from Moldova can hire refugees from Ukraine. There are available 1459 jobs within 106 employees in 16 regions from Moldova.
- Until March 23, 2022, 111 refugees from Ukraine asked Agency for help to find a job, 59 of them were employed already.
- There is a need to promote existing services of National Agency for Employment, and preferably creating a unified platform to matches supply and demand sides

Congress of Local Authorities from Moldova:

- Most of the hosting families are with middle-income or poor ones.
- CALM had established a Response and Coordination Unit (Cell) in the context of the refugee crisis in Ukraine. This unit is covering the following areas:
 - Ensuring and coordinating the communication process between LPA - CPA, LPA - CPA - Development Partners, LPA - Civil society / general public

- Establishment of a CALL CENTER for LPA in order to determine the local (LPA and individuals) needs and possibilities in both refugee's accommodation and service delivery
 - Legal expertise at the level of legal and regulatory framework
 - Information and training for LPAs
- Based on needs identified by now, an immediate response is needed to compensate the families that are hosting refugees (especially those on long term) which are covering 2/3 out of total number of refugees.
 - Basic needs being food, hygiene products, bed linen, communal services costs (gas, electricity, water, (wood and coil for heating)), etc.
 - It is necessary to identify a formula for compensation of all those mentioned costs.
 - One of possible solutions to cover the food needs would be the LPAs that have social canteens to cover 1 meal per day per refugee. Here we have to bear in mind that these social canteens are financed from LPA budget which is very limited. Thus, these canteens would need additional funding in order to cover the refugees.

Outstanding needs:

- The Government is working on an economic resilience program to help the population deal with the concurrent crises, including refugee crisis, energy security crisis, socio-economic impacts. The authorities ask for support in consulting the program and its implementation;
- Authorities ask help to create regional warehouses in Moldova for essential food storage that can be shared further with refugees and hosting families;
- The Government is looking for opportunities to support the social canteens opened in villages and small cities to provide a free meal to refugees and even locals with low incomes.
- National Agency for Employment is looking for support for the socio-economic integration of refugees through promoting employment opportunities (leaflets and promotional materials, as well as a mobile app with interactive data on the employment opportunities).
- Local authorities ask for extrabudgetary institutional support and help for host families with low income.

Challenges:

- Central authorities do not have exact data of the refugees' location within Moldova. Now, the State Chancellery offices are working on collecting the data. This information will be used for better planning and allocation of resources.
- National Agency for Employment proposed to organize courses of professional development for refugees.
- The employers do not have sufficient information about the employment duration. So, most of them are signed working contracts for one or a maximum of two months.
- There is no centralized monitoring of the help offered to refugees. To avoid overlap and gaps, it should be a common understanding of the efforts.

During the meeting, it was reminded about the need to **complete the 5W by the WG** to map activities of partners, find synergies and avoid duplication. The activities will be analysed, which will help frame the future conversations.

The **assessments** can be registered **using this [link](#)**. It is important that the WG members share their ongoing or planned assessments to create a consolidated map of assessments and identify gaps to be addressed.

At the same time, the participants at the meeting were encouraged to **complete the Inter-Agency Refugee Response Moldova Contact List** with appropriate contact information. The document is **available [here](#)**.

The discussions on short-term and long-term solutions and considerations of local/regional/national contexts will continue.

Thank you very much for participation and your engagement!