

**Basic Needs Working Group Meeting**  
 Meeting Minutes

<b>Time &amp; Location</b>	<b>18 March 2022 – Online Meeting</b>	
<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Discussion summary</b>	
<b>Welcome and overview of meeting agenda</b>	<b>Activity</b>	
	Introduction and Overview of Situation	UNHCR
	Updates on Main Findings and Challenges	All participants
	AOB	All Participants
<b>Introduction and Overview of Situation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As of 17 March, 1,9 million refugees arrived in Poland since 24 of February.</li> <li>• There is a decrease in the daily arrival trends since 13<sup>th</sup> of March. Arrival figures are below 100,000 since 10 March.</li> <li>• Arrivals are from all over Ukraine and almost many of them without an onward plan.</li> <li>• 90% of the new arrivals are women and children.</li> <li>• Border Crossing Points remain open.</li> <li>• Reportedly, less TCNs seem to be entering Poland from Ukraine.</li> <li>• Border and interior cities continue to operate reception centers with local authority/volunteer management.</li> <li>• Observed volunteer fatigue. Volunteers have already decreased/returned to their respective jobs and studies.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pressure on facilities and crowding at rail stations continue.</li> <li>• UNHCR is conducting site visits to reception centers to identify areas of need and intervention, distribute CwC materials and do the protection monitoring.</li> <li>• PESEL registration (equivalent of Poland’s national ID) is commenced for the refugees.</li> <li>• UNHCR undertook two emergency cash assistance pilots (in Lublin and Warsaw) partnering with PCPM and Caritas and in close collaboration with the Municipality of Lublin.</li> <li>• UNHCR visiting potential sites in Warsaw and preparing for further scale-up of cash programme in Warsaw and other cities in Poland</li> </ul>
<p><b>Updates on Main Findings and Challenges on NFI</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salvation Army has NFIs and household items however so far, they did not get much positive responds from the centers. Salvation Army planning for larger scale distribution as they have got an overseas connection who are wanting to send supplies to them for further distribution.</li> <li>• UNICEF mentioned that following their visits to some center; they have observed that plenty of NFIs and hygiene materials are available at the centers.</li> <li>• PAH touched upon the procedures of accepting goods by the centers and reiterated that any kind of transferring agency should contact especially to local authorities and Voivodeships.</li> <li>• In terms of having a local level of mapping about identifying the needs is a controversial area since authorities in different level are disconnected from each other.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Updates on Main Findings and Challenges on Shelter</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNHCR stated that, according to the Municipality of Krakow, currently they accommodate approximately 2,000 refugees in many different locations in hotels, hostels, and other type of buildings. However, they have observed that the refugees are staying on maximum three- or four-day’s periods within those locations.</li> <li>• Additionally, Municipality of Krakow is not in a position to offer long term accommodation places to the</li> </ul>

	<p>refugees. They mentioned other challenge in Krakow as lack of job opportunities. They are trying to cooperate with the Voivodeship (Lesser Poland) in an effort to relocate the refugees in smaller cities and towns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Currently, the plan of the Polish government is to disperse refugees all around Poland especially into smaller cities and the towns.</li> <li>• Information flow is needed especially in receptions points and transit locations since as observed in the field, many of the refugees do not have an onward plan and do not have relatives or friends to stay.</li> <li>• PAH stated that there might be possibility of commencing the group accommodation soon since the capacity is approaching to the end.</li> <li>• There is a need to connect organizations that have the capacity to offer accommodation for refugees with the local authorities.</li> <li>• NGO Forum stated that, there is a need to plan about longer term programs of supplementary financing of accommodation taking into consideration the character of the real estate market in Poland, especially in big cities as this is very costly. Focus should be not one short term support, but rather about long-term programs which is expected to be well adjusted to the to the policies and to the local market.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Updates on Main Findings and Challenges on WASH</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unicef stated that accessing to showers and hand washing facilities in reception centers is still controversial issue since the buildings that performed as a reception are not able to serve functionally of those.</li> <li>• As an alternative to hand washing, putting wet wipes and hand sanitizers especially in the border side could be a solution.</li> <li>• Even most of the refugees are women and it is not one of the priority issues, majority of the buildings are not able to serve as segregated sanitary facilities.</li> <li>• As another issue, lack of laundry facilities in reception centers remains to be gap.</li> <li>• Disinfection of certain items as bed that are used in centers is an ongoing problem. Centers have not adequate</li> </ul>

	<p>space to carry out disinfection process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OXFAM stated that some of the toilets are overused and operation and maintenance of them may become an issue in the long term.</li> <li>• The location of the chemical toilets is not properly cited since some of them are quite far away from the centers. Additionally, accessing those facilities by disabled people and children is another issue.</li> </ul>
<b>Updates on Main Findings and Challenges on Food Security</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PAH stated that, as an observation from the field, people are demanding travel bags which includes nutritional snacks for travel while they on the road to go another country.</li> <li>• Some people are rejecting to eat Polish food. Therefore, they are refusing to go centers since they are not able to eat food that are distributed in there. Those dietary differences play a crucial role on accommodation as well.</li> <li>• UNICEF stated that giving significance of hygiene in the areas where food is serving is another subject that should be concentrated.</li> <li>• Speeding up cash distribution will also assist to purpose of buying food by refugees</li> </ul>
<b>AOB</b>	N/A
<b>Next meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Next Basic Needs Working Group meeting is scheduled to take place on 25 March 2022 at 3pm.</li> <li>▪ UNHCR Portal link will be shared with partners to access meeting minutes</li> </ul>

**ACTION POINTS SUMMARY**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
<b>1.</b>	To share the list of reception points in Poland	UNHCR
<b>2.</b>	ToR of the BNWG to be prepared and shared for comments	UNHCR
<b>3.</b>	Fill the missing information in the contact list and revert by Wednesday March 23rd CoB	All Participants