

**Basic Needs Working Group Meeting**  
 Meeting Minutes

<b>Time &amp; Location</b>	<b>1 April 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>• 2.415 million new arrivals to Poland. (24 February – 31 March at 7am) (BG data)</li> <li>• 23,000 total arrivals on 30 March to Poland.</li> <li>• Arrivals from all over Ukraine, continue to arrive disoriented, many of them without an onward plan, some choosing to return.</li> <li>• Trends decreasing steadily since 27 March with arrival figures below 30,000 people. Overall flows expected to continue based on the situation in Ukraine.</li> <li>• Around 406,000 persons have crossed the border from Poland into Ukraine since 24 February. (BG data) No demographic data is currently available on those crossing into Ukraine.</li> <li>• In Warsaw, on 31 March, 885 individuals were enrolled in the cash assistance programme in Warsaw. From 21-31 March, 5,985 individuals (2,739 families) have been enrolled to receive cash assistance.</li> <li>• Training of registration personnel started on 30 March, Wednesday in Krakow in preparation of the cash assistance programme that will begin in Krakow soon. Also, there will be blue dot hub in Tauron Arena together with the cash program.</li> <li>• Ukrainian citizens continue to register for a PESEL to have access to services. The government reports that over</li> </ul>	

	<p>500,000 Ukrainians have received their PESEL.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
<p><b>Updates on Main Findings and Challenges on NFI</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In Krakow, various NGOs has been mentioned that the number of people who approach their centers to ask assistance almost reduced to half. Even one NGO that operates on Sundays as well mentioned that very few people approached and asked for assistance in that day.</li> <li>• A list that has been published in government website identifies those double beds for blanket/for single use, bed sheets for pillow are the most requested items by refugees. Therefore, mentioned link could be a good starting point to reconsider focus of the NFIs. Link is as follow; <a href="https://www.gov.pl/web/pozytek/sprawdz-gdzie-i-jaka-pomoc-uchodzcom-z-ukrainy-jest-potrzebna">https://www.gov.pl/web/pozytek/sprawdz-gdzie-i-jaka-pomoc-uchodzcom-z-ukrainy-jest-potrzebna</a></li> <li>• Considering a mechanism that operates to link demands and supplies can be a good starting point. This mechanism may involve contact details for focal points.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Updates on Main Findings and Challenges on Shelter</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NRC stated that a Transit Site has been opened at the East Railway Station in Warsaw, which receives refugees from Ukraine arriving by train. The site is for a short stay, while few people rest over night to catch a train the next day. Transit Site consists of 9 facilities including reception point, waiting area, medical point, office, storage, food distribution point, canteen, and sanitation units.</li> <li>• The center is now managed by the local partner PCPM with the support of NRC, City Hall, and volunteers from different groups.</li> <li>• Capacity of the transit site is currently 1,500 individuals at any given time. Expectation is to host 2,000 arrivals a day. However, the number varies from day to day. The center provides the following services: information on train and bus schedule to other destinations and referrals to accommodation; free SIM cards; medical support as well as psychological support. Children may benefit from the children friendly space. Additionally, center also provides pet area. Take away cold and hot meals are distributed.</li> <li>• In the nearest future, NRC plans to focus on cash for rent programming that will be closely coordinated with</li> </ul>

other partners and local authorities.

- Habitat for Humanity Poland organization is operating since 1992 in the housing sector with the provision of support to vulnerable families through a social rental housing program. The organization is supporting refugees that arrives at the East train station in the field of accommodation. Referrals of refugee household who do not have a place to stay and providing them to temporary places are the main activities so far. Additionally, organization has solidarity families that has almost been reached to 4,000 people in Warsaw that offer accommodation opportunities. Habitat is matching available opportunities and with the refugees who need shelter assistance. Additionally, Habitat is covering transportation process as well. In addition to the solidarity family list, the organization has several hotel rooms that can be reserved and offer those opportunities to families who may want to desire longer stay or more than two weeks.
- As a planning midterm solution, Habitat is collecting database that shows rental units for available accommodation for families who may want to move beyond two weeks stay.
- As a longer-term planning, Habitat is working on the social rental program in cooperation with the municipality of Warsaw. However, it supports several additional municipalities who want to set up social rental agencies. Refugees who may consider settling permanently in Poland may get benefit from that. As a second solution, there will be cash assistance in the form of rental support for families who approach to the organization. Organization is willing to cooperate with other partners in this regard and looking to support further coordination of shelter sector.
- BCG provided information on the UA SOS Shelter Program. So far, the platform has helped approximately 4,000 refugees and it offers 10,000 beds. Currently, 35,000 refugees are seeking shelter from the platform. Several NGOs has been engaged and the operation has a pledge of the Polish Government. About functioning of the platform, a form that consists various questions as the situation of disability, the number of kids and animals should be fulfilled. Based on the information that is provided to the platform both by host and guest, users are automatically receive a match. There is an algorithm which runs every fifteen minutes and automatically pairs to people. As a next step, users receive contract to each other and arrange all the details.

- Even security has been worked on the platform, still working on updates are ongoing for improving the process. Therefore, identity verification, panic buttons and this kind of features will be added to it. As an international expansion of the platform, institution had a soft launch in Hungary, Slovakia and Czech and promotion will start soon. Other countries as Romania, Estonia, Moldova, Switzerland, Portugal, and Spain have been asking to extend it. Language translation support as Ukrainian, Russian, and English have been completed and other language supports will be added as well. The platform has media support from National TV, Facebook, Google as well as a marketing agency. The institution is planning to have identity verification provided by ID in the version of 3.0. Additionally, daily checklist and feedback collection may add to next version. The institution has 200,000 ID verification pledged for free and the process will be developed too as scanning passport, ID, driving license as well as getting verified biometrically via selfie on phone
- As a display image during the meeting, the institution has shared its future plans. One of the plans that they consider implementing is adding transportation options and having integration with job search platform. Besides that, as a security measure, adding a GPS tacking and providing some legal protection info packs, safety tips that indicate sign information of sexual behaviors/ human trafficking for both host and guest is considering adding currently.
- Our Choice Foundation also provided information on a housing operation system. Our Choice Foundation is implementing two kind of online form that need to fill by people who need flats and who proposes the flats. Volunteers are working in shifts every day to match users. However, not having a long-term accommodation solution is an ongoing issue. The organization is settling refugees into accommodation places mainly in Warsaw, it is just for a short time. Therefore, finding places for long term staying is one of the main challenges that organization faces. In addition to that, number of the offering houses to the form is declining so that it cannot supply the demand. Right now, 10,000 people are expecting to be accommodated however only 6,000 places they can settle mostly from the Warsaw. As another issue, since Polish and Ukrainian law is not matching together in view of the legal adult age, people who are 16-17 years old cannot present themselves and they continuously move with their family. Therefore, adaptation to school and kindergarten for children becoming a problem for them. As a temporary solution, organization is working with some companies who can help them on the basis of providing hotel rooms for a few nights or for one month. Additionally, organization is partner of

	<p>the application that mentioned above from the beginning and has offered 1,500 flats. Besides that, since the expertise area of the organization is the social integration of the refugees instead of accommodation, the organization would like to cooperate with HABITAT organization due to its long-term experience in the area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Salam Lab is a Cracow-based NGO and together with Klub Ukraiński w Krakowie - Fundacja Zustricz, UAinKrakow.pl, JCC Kraków and Szlachetna Paczka, they run Reception center in Krakow which is an emergency temporary shelter located near central train station. Salam lab provides shelter for up to 70 people every night, additionally they provide food and medical assistance. They also serve as a link between people fleeing Ukraine and Polish citizens who want to host them (their database includes over 4,000 private apartments and over 2,000 spots in hotels &amp; hostels in Krakow and Małopolskie Voivodeship) Besides being a shelter, their reception center is an information point and a call centre. On average they provide counseling to around 1,000 persons on daily basis.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Updates on Main Findings and Challenges on WASH</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As a correction to previous meeting minute, OXFAM has not started the disinfection of the TESCO center yet, only the contract has been signed, disinfection to take place in the coming days.</li> <li>• UNICEF stated that, having a documentation that identified which institutions both governmental and NGO side manage the distribution and provision of the items may assist the circumstances of coordination. Additionally, pointing the location of those management and distribution process can improve the situation.</li> <li>• PAH said that, as an issue, in centers, staffs and volunteers are not able to put items into kits because of the random numbers of them. Therefore, distributing hygiene items as a set is a current problem at the border side. Therefore, in order to take a measure for a possible wave, focusing on contingency planning and prepositioning of supplies might be a beneficial solution.</li> <li>• PAH mentioned that, instead of having volunteers in the border's sides, working with teams can improve the condition of the circumstance since assuming the decreased number of the volunteers in the possible waves can negatively affect the process.</li> <li>• Distributing small items as wet wipes for people on move has been observed as a beneficial work since they do</li> </ul>

	<p>not have to carry large boxes when on the road.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Since there are no major changes in the regard of wash services, preparedness for another wave and looking at the modalities can be considered.</li> </ul>
<b>Updates on Main Findings and Challenges on Food Security</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As per the observation from the field, there is no major changes has been observed in food security, as previous, local authorities and its coordination with other NGOs and volunteers are handling the situation cooperatively.</li> <li>• PAH said that it has been estimated that having a cash program will improve the process of food diversity and beneficiaries will be able to make their choices.</li> <li>• RRReliefCo Poland said that it has been observed that quality of food distribution is quite low. The organization has developed a standard and standard key to be distributed to the people. In addition to that, individual kit and parcel foods has also been standardized. The document will be shared.</li> <li>• RRReliefCo Poland mentioned that in some cross border points, the cross-border guards are required to the Federation of Red Cross to distribute parcel foods and hygiene kits with Polish Red Cross.</li> </ul>
<b>AOB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Link for the meeting minutes. <a href="https://data2.unhcr.org/en/working-group/307?sv=54&amp;geo=10781">https://data2.unhcr.org/en/working-group/307?sv=54&amp;geo=10781</a></li> </ul>
<b>Next meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Next Basic Needs Working Group meeting is scheduled to take place on 8 April 2022 at 3pm.</li> </ul>

**ACTION POINTS SUMMARY**

No.	Action	Responsible
1.		