

**Basic Needs Working Group Meeting**  
 Meeting Minutes

<b>Time &amp; Location</b>	<b>29 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
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 million cumulative arrivals from 24 February to 29 April (BG data)</li> <li>• 24,100 total arrivals on 28 April. (BG data)</li> <li>• Population movements are rising again after a steady decrease in the numbers of people entering Poland since 20 April reaching a low of 9,800 on 24 April (Orthodox Easter).</li> <li>• Border-crossing movements expected to continue based on the situation in Ukraine.</li> <li>• On 28 April, 19,700 people crossed the border from Poland into Ukraine (BG data) with a total of cross border movements of 924,000 people since 24 February.</li> <li>• Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance, a total of 40,908 individuals (19,329 families) have been enrolled so far in the cash assistance as of 29 April through three cash centers in Warsaw and Krakow. UNHCR Poznan team conducted the first day of training for the cash centre staff and visited the centre space with the new Blue Dot coordinator. UNHCR Gdansk team leader met with the municipality in Gdansk and began coordination for the UNHCR cash centre space, and continued coordination with LWF on the training schedule for LWF centre openings.</li> <li>• PESEL Registration. Ukrainian citizens continue to register for a PESEL to have access to services. As of 27 April, according to Poland’s Office for Foreigners over one million (1,038,980) Ukrainian citizens have registered for the national PESEL number allowing them access to services such as health and social support. The demographics of people registered for the PESEL according to the deputy minister are as follows: Children below 18 years represent 47.9% of all those who registered. Women aged 18-65 years represent 44.9% of all who registered, men aged 18-65 years are: 3.8% and those above 65 years represent 3.4% of the people who registered.</li> </ul>	
<b>Introduction and Overview of Situation</b>		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RRP/Coordination. The Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) has been released. (<a href="https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/92257">https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/92257</a>) Work is underway with the Government of Poland to develop a national launch event with all relevant stakeholders.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Updates on Main Findings and Challenges on NFI</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multicultural Center Krakow shared that there is a need for specific NFIs; however, availability of food remains the bigger problem. Specifically, the organization needs to purchase about 14,000 new pairs of underwear a week. They also receive about 500 daily requests for non-prescription medicines. Many individuals do not understand the process for obtaining medical assistance. Therefore, they are hesitant to do so and turn to NGOs for help.</li> <li>• Multicultural center also provided an overview and update of the Szafa Dobra free shop in Galeria Plaza. 1,200 people beneficiaries come to the shop each day. They come from Krakow and also from other parts of Małopolska.</li> <li>• UNHCR shared an update on NFIs at border crossings. Based on the latest field visits there are a high number of humanitarian actors present relative to individuals crossing the border. As such no lack of NFIs was identified. UNHCR also conducted a site visit to an orphanage in Kaweczynek. Directors expressed that the orphanage had enough funds to operate for two more months only and that no financial help was being received from authorities. This could contribute to a recurring problem with food and NFIs. UNHCR plans to carry out site visits to more towns and villages in the coming week to further assess the situation.</li> <li>• UNHCR shared that a large warehouse in Rzeszow is closing. The warehouse is privately owned and no longer has funds to store donations. However, it was noted that in general there are sufficient quantities of NFIs at Reception Points.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Updates on Main Findings and Challenges on Shelter</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNHCR shared that the present meeting is the last in which shelter would be included under basic needs. Starting in May a Shelter Working Group will begin holding dedicated meetings on Wednesdays. The Working Group will be chaired jointly by UNHCR and Habitat for Humanity. UNHCR will send out an invitation and more information to the Basic Needs Working Group mailing list in the coming days.</li> <li>• UNHCR summarized the partnership between Hilton and Booking.com. Under the agreement, NGOs can use a</li> </ul>

	<p>special Booking.com platform to book Hilton hotel rooms for beneficiaries for up to 15 days. UNHCR also mentioned that the organization is looking at partnerships and working with municipal authorities towards more mid- and long- term housing options. However, no concrete options yet exist in this regard. It is hoped that a more detailed update regarding mid- and long- term options can be given in several weeks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNHCR summarized a meeting with the Governor (Wojewoda) of Małopolska region which took place on 28.04. According to the Governor’s office 250,000 individual who had fled Ukraine are present in Małopolska and 25,000 are accommodated in government sites. During the meeting the governor emphasized that the priority is to facilitate access to the labor market so individuals can support themselves. UNHCR also expressed to the governor that the organization is able to complement the work of the government. This includes through renovating buildings to serve as longer term accommodation if necessary.</li> <li>• Habitat for Humanity highlighted that the shelter specific working group is important as focus shifts from an emergency situation to more mid- and long- term challenges. In this regard, the context is shifting as apartments are becoming harder to find and families who were initially hosted in Polish homes are looking for longer term accommodation. Furthermore, mid-, and long- term solutions will require joint advocacy and cooperation between partners which the Shelter Working Group can facilitate.</li> <li>• Salam Lab shared that the organization’s temporary shelter will close on 5 May. This is to focus efforts more on mid-term accommodation and because the organization sees city facilities for short term accommodation as sufficient. The building belonging to the organization currently being used for shelter will be converted into a community and integration space. Salam Lab is also finalizing plans for initiatives with Airbnb.org and Fundacja Biedronki.</li> <li>• Our Choice Foundation has published a second call for solidarity housing. Concurrently, the organization is also continuing to develop a mid-term strategy.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Updates on Main Findings and Challenges on WASH</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNHCR shared that the sanitary conditions of toilets visited varied between Reception Points. In some RPs complaints had been noted about the maintenance of the toilets. In some RPs no shower facilities were available. Furthermore, in some RPs toilets and showers were not segregated by gender. Therefore, it was</li> </ul>

	<p>advised that these should be segregated at all RPs and that shower capacity should be increased to handle a potential increase in cross-border flows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNHCR shared an update about the situation in the Przemysl Tesco that is serving as an accommodation point. It was noted that there are sufficient numbers of segregated toilets and that these are cleaned and maintained by volunteers. Showers are provided by Oxfam. Hand washing stations are also available. UNHCR observed that despite the large number of arrivals at the facility, it remained well maintained and there was no additional need.</li> <li>• Cross Border Civilians Foundation shared that based on a recent visit to the Przemysl Tesco she observed many people spraying sheets and duvets to disinfect them. She also observed individuals spraying bugs. Based on this observation it was noted that there may be a need for industrial washing facilities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Updates on Main Findings and Challenges on Food Security</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNHCR shared the findings of the follow up on the food situation in Krakow. UNHCR spoke with representatives of several local NGOs. In general individuals expressed those hot meals being handed out at specific points in the city did not sufficiently meet food need. This was due to the lack of nutritional variety of the food provided and the difficulty of getting to food distribution points on a consistent basis. As a result, there is a need for individuals to have access to food they can bring back to their accommodations. So far, this need is being met completely through donations to NGOs. The current capacity of NGOs in this regard not sufficient.</li> <li>• Multicultural Center Krakow highlighted that the organization is seeing queues for food every day of up to two hours. In this regard they plan to keep an Excel sheet of beneficiaries and limit visits to once per week per person. The center also met with the Governor (Wojewoda) to discuss funding exclusively for food support. Finally, the Center noted that not all hosting families are taking advantage of the 40 pln/day that they are entitled to. In this respect it was suggested that it could be proposed the unclaimed funds are used to stock a warehouse with food that can be given out.</li> <li>• UNHCR provided an update on the food at border crossing and reception points. Following site visits, the situation was assessed as fairly good given the number of people being received. It was further noted that there were a large number of humanitarian actors given the number of people currently crossing the border.</li> </ul>

	<p>However, it was also highlighted that if the influx grows there may be additional food need.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross Border Civilians Foundation asked about food for people entering Ukraine. There have been reports of 4-day long queues to enter Ukraine at the Medyka border crossing.</li> <li>• UNHCR mentioned they have not seen anyone providing food for individuals going to Ukraine. However, it was highlighted that individuals waiting to enter Ukraine can also receive free warm meals at the reception points for individuals entering Poland. UNHCR Rzeszow further mentioned they can liaise with border guards regarding better signage of these food points if necessary.</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 13 May 2022 at 3pm.</li> </ul>

**ACTION POINTS SUMMARY**

No.	Action	Responsible
<b>1.</b>	Those interested should attend the first Shelter Working Group meeting on 4 May at 2pm.	All Partners