

## Shelter Working Group Meeting Meeting Minutes

<b>Time &amp; Location</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – Online Meeting</b>
<b>Agenda item</b>	<b>Discussion summary</b>
<b>Introduction and Overview of Situation</b>	<p>In agreement with the consensus recommendation in BN working group, dedicated Shelter Working Group has been established to address the challenges connected with access to safe housing/accommodation for the refugees.</p> <p>Initially the working group will be co-chaired by UNHCR and Habitat for Humanity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Population movements remains low since last couple of days following the Orthodox Easter. However, overall flows expected to continue based on the situation in Ukraine (BG data).</li> <li>• Fewer arrivals of refugees, which means less of a need for transit accommodation (2 weeks or less). Collective centers are being shut down in some cases due to lack of funding or political will. However, returnees might also need transit accommodation.</li> <li>• Currently the major accommodation needs are mid to long term (3-12 months), what was raised by many actors on the ground.</li> <li>• Most pressing challenges up to date:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increased cost of rent in major cities,</li> <li>○ Decreased availability of rental options, in all the major cities,</li> <li>○ Solidarity housing /host families sustainability?</li> <li>○ Lack of appropriate coordination and communication from the authorities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Programming</b>	<p>Program options discussed in Basic Needs WG; RRP has and 5W will have organization-specific information. The following are aggregate approaches.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Accommodation for refugees in transit – reception centers, hotels, and host families</li> <li>• Accommodation for refugees looking to stay – collective centers, hotels, host families (matching, financial assistance, etc.), and some rental support (social rental agencies, rental subsidies)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enabling environment program:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Creation of social rental agencies in multiple cities and availability of larger scale funding</li> <li>○ Need to create additional housing stock (temporary and permanent) through:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ rehabilitation of ‘empty spaces’ or underutilized buildings, prioritizing dormitories or housing units in public housing stock;</li> <li>▪ promoting public, private partnerships for socialized housing.</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Referring refugees to smaller cities with greater housing opportunities and with livelihoods</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Airbnb – Multiple organizations may be eligible to collaborate on this and provide rentals for up to 30 days</li> <li>• Hilton and Booking.com: multiple organizations may be eligible if they applied through UNHCR to access platform. Can provide accommodation up to 15 days.</li> <li>• Solidarity housing matching platforms: UA SOS and One Choice Foundation</li> </ul>
<p><b>Advocacy</b></p>	<p>Challenges in housing context: (1) rising cost of construction; (2) narrow rental market; (3) long waiting list for social housing – will cause tensions if we only focus on refugee housing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mid-term housing options:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Social rental agency: encourage this option with municipalities</li> <li>○ Incentives for land/property owners to make their investment properties available to refugees</li> <li>○ Housing subsidies / supplements at national level</li> <li>○ Readaptation of old/vacant buildings</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Longer-term housing options and advocacy points (new construction):           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Use existing housing stock that is empty or underutilized</li> <li>○ Flats for land mechanism – municipality may sell land to a developer and a developer can provide flats to the municipality</li> <li>○ More partnerships between public sector and private developers; encourage central government to provide incentives to developers (e.g. low-cost long-term loans); faster administrative procedures for faster housing construction</li> <li>○ Any new housing stock should be connected to education, job, health and other services to provide access to livelihood opportunities</li> <li>○ Better inter sectoral coordination</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>General discussion</b></p>	<p><b>CORE</b> – Returned from Ukraine recently. Now there is a smaller number of arrivals but expects that still many will be crossing the borders. In Dnipro 150k IDPs are not allowed to stay more than 7 days and will have to move. Western Ukraine talking about need for renovating underutilized building, but that is a longer-term</p>

solution however bureaucracy is holding the efforts.

- Advocacy point: save short term housing for refugees in transit (e.g. booking, transit points) for later down the line.

In Rzeszow the municipality is scaling down its engagement to the refugee response, it has led to uncoordinated arrivals of refugees into train station. CORE was asked to coordinate with their own volunteers. The shuttle that was transporting refugees from the train station was cancelled without any notice.

- Advocacy point: We need municipalities to provide better flow of information.

**UNHCR** - received information that solidarity hosts are no longer able to host families in some places. There is no clear strategy for medium to long term accommodation from the government.

- Advocacy point: Try to clarify what our (humanitarian sector) relationship with the government can be – at local, voivodship and national level. Local municipalities have job openings and housing options, but there is a difficulty in convincing refugees to move to smaller cities.
- Advocacy point: Provide better access to information about the opportunities in smaller cities.


**Our Choice Foundation** “Ukrainian House” – housing facility in Warsaw, crisis response center – wants to support the statements raised. Solidarity housing they organize is ending, welcoming is draining. Mid term is really needed. Agreement with initial advocacy points on integrated approach while considering the pre-existing Polish housing market challenges. In another meeting, issue raised: cooperation between governments on relocation issues; currently not planned between governments. Forbidden for sub government to coordinate between districts / voivodships; said from Lublin.

- Advocacy points: need coordination between local government entities.

Our Choice confirms the difficulties Ukrainians face when renting flats. Many landlords expect that they will sign lease agreement, confirmed by notary act, which says in case of eviction the family has a place to go (in Poland it is very difficult to evict a person without such stipulation). But for Ukrainians, they do not have a place to put of where they would go in case of eviction; this makes their opportunities to rent lower.

- Advocacy point: Support to legal arrangements for refugees.

**Salam Lab** - Krakow based organization: Confirmation of challenges; closing short term housing (enough

	<p>capacity in the municipal facilities); focusing now on medium to long term. Long term issue is that there is no rental options, similar to Warsaw. Relations with government, difficult. Lack of proper communication and coordination related to longer term housing. MOPS – social services, when inquired about the solidarity housing, they were unable to provide that information, neither support with qualified social workers. City was promoting their organization as shelter and medium term housing partner, but providing no support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy point: link to CORE point on increased engagement from municipal governments.</li> <li>• Advocacy: Municipal governments should have better coordination between themselves, as well as with NGOs, encourage partnership approach.</li> </ul> <p><b>IOM:</b> Confirms being in difficult transition phase of the response, agrees with the need for this group. There doesn't seem to be a good overall coordination mechanism for longer term solutions beyond the solidarity housing. Referenced program points, advocacy messages, lack of contingency measures in case of new influx, crucial role of municipalities in responding and coordinating, linkages between shelter and other sectors.</p> <p>Recommendations: (1) create dedicated task forces for each of these points – develop technical working group to create harmonized response delivery; (2) government involvement – we should invite them to participate in the working group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• After point (2) – Habitat will be at the Municipality Round Table next week and we will ask them to participate in the group. Requests that members also ask that their counterparts participate. However, historically it has been difficult to convince government to participate because it is bureaucratic to get approval. Maybe better to contact umbrella organizations that associate different municipalities.</li> </ul> <p><b>NRC:</b> during visit of transit sites – 24/5 of May, government will review the need for continuing transit sites. Need to follow up on this information. However, no other participants has the information on the topic.</p>
<b>AOB</b>	<p>UNHCR encouraged all organizations to visit the links mentioned below and provide their feedback or updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5W reporting tool –Activity Info based on the agreed inter-sector RRP monitoring framework  <a href="#">RRP Poland 2022 monitoring framework - 2 May.xlsx</a> It incorporates both regional and country level indicators.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Operational Data Portal Shelter WG sub-page will be created, sector leads will have access to publish documents add meetings to the event calendar.</li> <li>Assessment Registry All the ongoing/planned activities should be registered here using kobo form: <a href="https://enketo.unhcr.org/x/S85dk0lf">https://enketo.unhcr.org/x/S85dk0lf</a>  A dashboard reflecting the registry is published on IMWG subpage of ODP. <a href="https://data2.unhcr.org/en/dataviz/227?sv=0&amp;geo=0&amp;secret=unhcrrestricted">https://data2.unhcr.org/en/dataviz/227?sv=0&amp;geo=0&amp;secret=unhcrrestricted</a></li> <li>Site mapping and monitoring At the moment together with REACH, UNHCR is engaging bilaterally with sectors and partners, gathering feedback in order to improve a draft tool. <a href="https://ee.humanitarianresponse.info/x/djRnXrPj">https://ee.humanitarianresponse.info/x/djRnXrPj</a>  Please feel free to provide feedback as well.</li> </ul>
<b>Next meeting</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Next Shelter Working Group meeting is scheduled to take place on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at 2pm.</li> </ul>

**ACTION POINTS SUMMARY**

No.	Action	Responsible
1.	Minutes of Shelter WG Meeting will be drafted for review of participants.	UNHCR & Habitat for Humanity
2.	Shelter WG TORs will be drafted for review.	UNHCR
3.	Consolidate advocacy points into a one pager for review next week.	Habitat for Humanity
4.	Based upon synthesis of main points today, propose technical working groups that can focus the most important sub points from today. Need further discussion.	All participants
5.	Ongoing action item: Working group members and coordinators will reach out to government authorities, particularly municipalities to join working group meetings.	All participants