

## Shelter Working Group Meeting Meeting Minutes

<b>Time &amp; Location</b>	<b>11<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 the context of last Shelter WG meeting, no feedback received from organizations on meeting minutes.</p> <p>Population movements remains low since last couple of weeks. However, overall flows expected to continue based on the situation in Ukraine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fewer arrivals of refugees, which means less of a need for transit accommodation (3 weeks or less).</li> <li>• Special ISCG meeting with Assistant High Commissioner (Protection) &amp; Humanitarian Donor Group was conducted this week where Shelter WG leads shared brief on current shelter/housing situation and urgent need to address the emerging needs of mid-term to long-term solutions. Underlined necessity of working with local authorities with strong coordination and collaboration mechanisms and bring in private sector to reach early potential solutions including advocacy messages.</li> </ul>
<b>Programming</b>	<p>Summary of the voices from the local authorities in the conference in Wrocław, on the Ukraine Situation. The meeting was attended by experts and representative of local authorities (President of cities) and people working in municipalities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Amongst different working groups, Housing was one of the WG, to discuss different ideas and different perspective/aspects and response.</li> <li>• The ideas under discussion were mostly same as in SWG but concern was not to be limited to housing solution just for people coming from Ukraine. Access to housing in Poland was a major concern and how to proceed with the housing demands for both Polish and Ukrainians. For instance, allowing people from Ukraine to access social or municipal housing before people from Poland who waited in the line for years, which may raise social attention.</li> <li>• Financial support, maybe amendments to the housing allowances in Poland that might be useful for both</li> </ul>

	<p>Ukrainians and people in Poland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lease agreements and protection of tenants is a concern that can create difficulties with eviction. Advocacy for easing the regulations on evictions.</li> </ul>
<b>Advocacy</b>	<p>Reference to discussion in SWG meeting last week, a two-pager document (draft) will be shared this week with SWG organizations for their review and feedback.</p> <p>The draft contains advocacy messages for short-term, medium-term and long-term housing/accommodation solutions addressing to different level of government authorities in Poland. Emphasis of advocacy points is towards establishment/strengthening of social rental agencies, financial subsidies, tax benefits, unlocking housing stock through renovation and adaptation of empty/vacant spaces for housing purpose and strengthening cooperation with private sector.</p>
<b>General discussion</b>	<p><b>CORE</b> – There is a smaller number of arrivals and demand for shorter term housing options has reduced but hasn't gone away. With their partners, they are providing shelter to refugees, but current shelters are already at capacity and simultaneously they are also working to establish new shelters or to find shelters in proximity. Suggested to continue to support through a shelter that have existing partnership in place with organizations, until a long-term strategy is in place. It was also mentioned that the organization is trying to locate buildings that are empty for 05 years or longer to get support which could play a significant role in assisting with rehabilitation/renovation.</p> <p><b>PUI</b> – working on collective shelters, also reached at full capacity. Challenge is to relocate or even plan relocation of people without long-term solution. PUI is planning to improve shelters themselves to keep people there unless they have longer-term independent opportunities, while also focusing on reducing eviction for individual cases in private accommodation. They are trying to investigate the requisites, if required for permits regarding the renovation/rehabilitation with local authorities. If local authorities can streamline permit or ease permit requisites for renovation/rehabilitation for additional structure additions (toilet, additional walls, etc.) that could ease the emerging shelter/housing needs. They will get back to SWG with their findings with process.</p> <p>It is mentioned during discussion that there are different requirements in terms of construction and rehabilitation/renovation. if there are some bigger construction activities to be done, permits are required sometimes if this is smaller renovation, no permits or required.</p>

Recommendation: To wait for the general recommendations on way forward to be publicized for clarity, from the conference in Wrocław, to prepare/streamline advocacy points for discussion with authorities for housing/shelter solutions. It is further suggested to have local authorities in SWG discussions and work with them to find sustainable solutions

- Advocacy Point: City governments continue support, identify shelter managers to coordinate actors and help do the legwork themselves.
- Advocacy point: for future shelter upgrades (e.g., constructing additional toilets), have streamlined permitting processes

**UNHCR:** Shares the information shared by an organization who is facing expected closure of one shelter with 70 refugees residing in Warsaw, by the end of May 2022 and requested for appropriate place for potential 120-160 persons.


In addition, also shares the information regarding the assessments conducted by some organizations and requested organizations to utilize reporting tools that were shared in last SWG meeting on 04<sup>th</sup> May 2022.

**Habitat for Humanity (HfH):** A challenge raised during discussion on difficulty in finding apartments. HfH shared that a private sector property management company that we work with in Warsaw and Gliwice, and they could work with other organizations outside of Warsaw.

**CORE:** Feedback shared regarding lack of hot food and lack of access to Polish pharmacies and dentist that needs to be directed to Basic Needs WG, whereas the general safety of the collective centre buildings needs to discuss with further subgroup to create harmonized response delivery, proposed to be formed under SWG.

**IOM:** There is consensus that we need to move beyond immediate shelter options, and there are multiple different approaches. There should be a dedicated task force to these early recovery options. He proposed to work offline on a proposed TOR on topic.

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.

<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> <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></li> </ul> <p>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></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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></li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">Please feel free to provide feedback as well.</p>
<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.	Feedback awaited on Shelter WG TORs shared with organizations in SWG.	All participants
3.	Advocacy points draft to be shared for review and feedback in next week meeting.	UNHCR & Habitat for Humanity
4.	Solicit opinions on priority technical working group topics before next week meeting.	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