

**Basic Needs Working Group Meeting**  
 Meeting Minutes

<b>Time &amp; Location</b>	<b>20 May 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>• 3.4 million recorded entries into Poland through eight border crossing points since 24 February.</li> <li>• Population movements have been within the range of an average of approximately 20,000 entries into Poland for the past week, though the numbers of people crossing from Poland to Ukraine have been within the range of average 20,000-21,000 exits during the past week.</li> <li>• Overall flows expected to continue based on the situation in Ukraine.</li> <li>• On 19 May, 26,700 people crossed the border from Poland into Ukraine (BG data) with a total of cross border movements of 1.4 million people since 24 February according to BG. There is however no indication from the Border Guards in Poland as to the size of individual multiple entries and exits; rather, BG record a cumulative trend of entries and exits.</li> <li>• Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance: By Tuesday, 19 May, a total of 95,722 individuals (46,611 families) have been enrolled in the cash assistance through centers in Warsaw (Praga and Mirow), Krakow, Poznan, Gdynia, Ostroda, Wroclaw, Gdansk - representing approximately 26.6% of the target population.</li> <li>• Blue Dot: A total of 8,838 individuals/4,034 families have been counselled through the Blue Dots from 23 March-19 May. Most people enquired about health and medical services, transport and financial support or cash assistance. Most interventions by the Blue Dot teams included the provision of information on assistance and services and providing mental health and psychosocial support. Most referrals were to protection/social services, medical services and MHPSS services.</li> <li>• Ukrainian citizens continue to register for a PESEL to have access to services. As of 19 May,</li> </ul>	
<b>Introduction and Overview of Situation</b>		

	<p>according to Poland’s Office for Foreigners (OFF) over one million Ukrainian nationals (1,113,385) have registered for the national PESEL number allowing them access to services such as health and social support. 47% of those who registered for a PESEL are children (&lt;18 years) and 53% are adults according to OFF.</p>
<p><b>Updates on Main Findings and Challenges on NFI</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNHCR mentioned that UNHCR is in the process of procuring basic NFIs such as bed sheets, blankets, family, and individual hygiene kits. UNHCR has also estimated the needs per region. This information has been shared with the Union of Polish Metropolises. Current identified NFI needs include summer clothing items and underwear.</li> <li>• UNHCR has also estimated need for NFIs in the region. UNHCR have discussed further with the Wojewoda of Podkarpackie regarding the best approach to understand needs. It was proposed to create an online platform so needs can be filled at the municipality level. It was further noted that at the border and transit points refugees request large bags.</li> <li>• Przemysl Refugee Center noted that at the Przemysl Tesco there is a constant need for hard suitcases with wheels. Otherwise, general basic NFI needs are met.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Updates on Main Findings and Challenges on WASH</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oxfam provided an updated about WASH operations in Podkarpackie region. Oxfam has placed toilets and handwashing stations in reception centers around Przemysl, as well as at Medyka border crossing. It was noted that number of refugees are decreasing, and needs are lower than they were a couple of weeks ago. As a result, the current number of facilities appear to be sufficient. However, this may not remain the case if refugee flows increase. The larger concern at the moment is with maintenance and management of facilities. For example. it is unclear who is managing some of the portable toilet around Przemysl train station. Starting 20 May, Oxfam will be giving more support to some NGOs and reception points.</li> <li>• Przemysl Refugee Center noted that overall WASH conditions at the Przemysl Tesco remained good. The one exception is the sanitation of bedding. The Tesco itself does not have sufficient laundry capabilities. Currently, staff sterilize all bedding with alcohol. However, this is a long and labor-intensive process. The most dirty bedsheets are thrown away. They cannot always be replaced quickly so shortages of bedding occur. Volunteers have tried to organize an outsourced laundry system. However, bags of dirty laundry that are packed to be</li> </ul>

	<p>taken away remain for weeks and no one picks them up. It was noted that the situation has remained the same for the past month with no improvement. Oxfam highlighted they are planning to commence support of laundry services at Przemysl Tesco soon.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNHCR mentioned that in Podkarpackie region a decreased number of new arrivals means that WASH is less of a problem compared to other needs. It has been noted that there are some inadequate facilities among unofficial private accommodations. UNHCR will assess this more thoroughly with a UNHCR Senior Accommodation Officer from 23-25 May.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Updates on Main Findings and Challenges on Food Security</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNHCR gave an update on food need. In April several NGOs in Krakow reported they could not meet the need for food packages for refugees to take home. This situation remains ongoing. In Krakow's four municipal accommodation sites World Central Kitchen (WCK) provides all hot meals. They will end these operations in the coming weeks. The three WCK outdoor tents will remain. As such, there will be a large food need that the municipality will have to fill. At the current moment, they report that they do not have enough funds. UNHCR has received similar information from NGOs in Gdansk regarding WCK in that city.</li> <li>• UNHCR also gave an update about Rzeszow, Podkarpackie region, and border crossing points. In Podkarpackie WCK provides food at official accommodation points and border crossing points. At the most dynamic border crossing points small NGOs are also present. UNHCR Rzeszow has not received any information that WCK is planning on leaving the region or altering operations. Additionally, there has not been any food need observed in Podkarpackie, but this may be anticipated in the future.</li> <li>• Przemysl Refugee Center shared an update about conditions at the Przemysl Tesco. WCK provides all food at the center. So far there have been no noted supply issues. However, the WCK operating hours have changed. Previously, WCK was operational 24/7. Now it is only operational within certain hours. This may be due to a lack of volunteers. It was also notes that some of the smaller NGOs at Medyka border crossing will shortly be ending operations due to lack of need</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> <li>• Przemysl Refugee Center shared security concerns regarding the Przemysl Tesco. It was noted that the operator of the site has left and taken the security system with him. Previously all individuals staying in the center had to scan a wrist band before entering. The municipality is looking for a new operator for the center. In the meantime, anyone can enter the building. Unverified drivers are also not prevented from offering transportation.</li> <li>• Przemysl Refugee Center noted that individuals at the Przemysl train stations are being denied beds in the Tesco accommodation site despite the fact that there are free beds. Instead, people are sleeping in and outside of the train station. This is reportedly because the Tesco is meant to serve as an accommodation site for one to two nights and municipal authorities are afraid that refugees will stay longer.</li> <li>• UNHCR shared that they had just met with the Mayor of Przemysl and raised the above matter. However, they had not yet received any feedback. UNHCR further noted that the municipality continues to provide accommodation at the Tesco site to all refugees planning to travel to other countries in Europe. However, all refugees planning to remain in Poland must stay at the train station. The capacity at the train station is low. There is a dedicated space for beds to be placed, but not yet any beds. Many people are seen sleeping in corridors and outside. This may be difficult for refugees travelling on to other parts of Poland. Many have already had long journeys and need a dedicated place to rest before further travel.</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 3 June 2022 at 3pm.</li> </ul>

<b><u>ACTION POINTS SUMMARY</u></b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
<b>1.</b>		