

7th Coordination meeting in Otaci – 03.05.22

Participants: UNHCR, ACTED, Mayor of Otaci, IOM, Border police, Blue Dot, CDA, EUROBAM, Emergency Coordination Cell

Agenda points

Context updates

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p>Introduction by the Mayor</p>	<p>The Mayor introduces the meeting by thanking everyone present. He expresses gratitude to the organizations and volunteers that were in Otaci from the beginning, and new organizations joining now, for all the services provided to hosting families and refugees. He raised the issue of the cash support and his worries about the distribution and possible fraud.</p>	
<p>Context updates</p>	<p>UNHCR: Introduces the colleague who will be covering also Otaci, Yasemin Sener, so any question or inquiry can also be addressed to her. Giovanni Zanelli, from UNHCR’s shelter/accommodation team that will be supporting UNHCR’s presence. UNHCR thanks the local authorities about the work done in the emergency so far.</p> <p>Border Police (BP): Informs that the predominant trend now is Ukrainians not staying in Moldova but going back home. The influx of people is normal now. When asked what normal means, Border Police clarifies that they mean an influx like before February 24th. There were 3 applications from men between 16 and 60 who asked for asylum, trying to cross to avoid the military service.</p> <p>UNHCR asks how many persons would be considered big influx. BP says in the first days of the emergency, they had up to 6000 people in 12 hours, now is 1000 in 24 hrs. A HIGH influx would be over 12,000 persons day. 6000 in 12 hours persons they managed (This is the maximum capacity is 6000 per shift, 12 hours) Most this flow is people crossing the border for economic activities.</p>	<p>Yasemin Sener, UNHCR senery@unhcr.org</p>

	<p>Blue DOT: There are no significant updates to report, they are operating in a regular way. Raised an issue of Ukrainians crossing back to Ukraine with national documents and the inconveniences this causes once the legislation was changed. <i>Next day after the meeting the legislation was amended on the national level, problem not topical any more.</i></p> <p>EUBAM: They don't report any changes in terms of monitoring. Regarding the issue posed by Blue Dot they will meet with the Ukrainian colleagues to understand better if there are any changes in regulations. They say that it would be easier for them to discuss these issues in real time with Ukrainian Border Authorities if they'd known in advance. EUBAM will share if there are any news on this next meeting.</p> <p>Emergency Coordination Cell: Reports that there were a few meetings of Joint Emergency Management Center but without anything significant to report. There is nothing to report at the local level. In Ocnica district there are no significant changes because the influx is very small, and they are managing. <i>Follow-up: Nikolai will invite central level representative in Ocnica district (Mr Gogol) to the coordination meeting on May 10.</i></p> <p>IOM: Provided updates in 2 topics (site improvements and operations) <u>Site improvement:</u> Recognizes UNHCR and Mayor for the inputs on the site improvement. The location was chosen. They are in the process of negotiating how to coordinate all the approvals. The site planning is not finalized, when it is it would be shared. Procurement process for the gravelling has already been initiated. It will probably start next week. UNHCR suggests that there should be further discussion with the colleagues at the field about the site planning because it seems like there is a misunderstanding regarding the plan.</p> <p><u>Operation:</u> They also want to confirm the extension (in time) of green corridor to Romania in case of large influx. Emergency team is ready to deploy, as part of the preparedness plan.</p>	
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	<p>CDA: They report they are working together with blue dot for specific cases. In regard of their monitoring activities at the BCP in Otaci, they can report that many persons going back to Ukraine. They have also identified restrictions for persons going back to Ukraine that came to Moldova only with a local ID and they are not allowed to go back. This is especially worrying for mothers with their children who don't have enough money to stay in Moldova. Not many cases like this are identified, but it could be a problem in the future. <i>Next day after the meeting the legislation was amended on the national level, problem not topical any more.</i></p> <p>UNHCR suggests focusing in providing support to these cases identified, for instance providing them with transport to Chisinau to sort their papers out or with accommodation as necessary.</p> <p>ACTED: Informs that most of the team is focusing in Palanca following the explosions in Odesa on Monday. In terms of assistance, they have provided transportation for refugees during the holidays. Also, they have established power banks for phone charging. Also points out that we must be careful with the provision of assistance with SIM cards because some people cross the border, register, get assistance and then they go back.</p>	
<p>Transport and accommodation issues</p>	<p>Blue Dot informs that sometimes there are people who are crossing the border after 6 pm, they don't have documentation and they must be taken to Chisinau for accommodation and there is no transport offered. Sometimes, this transport is provided by Carabinieri or Church Volunteers.</p> <p>Mayor clarifies that these services can be provided by church volunteers. Also mentions that it would be good if the BMA would be present at Otaci, because it is their responsibility to provide accommodation and transport to persons arriving in the country.</p> <p>ACTED informs that they would be available to be prepared at night. However, it is clarified by participants that coordination is only necessary for sporadic cases.</p>	<p>UNHCR will invite the administration of the center and the representative of BMA to join a meeting</p>

Regulation for children crossing the border	The mayor informs that he has been talking to the head of the border police and informs they have a regulation emitted on April 26 th about children crossing the Moldovan border. The regulation describes the procedure that should be follow for children. UNHCR suggests inviting the guardianship authorities.	The Mayor will invite Local Guardianship Authorities for a meeting to explain and clarify the new regulation.
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