Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

FINAL

Podkarpackie Coordination Group (PCG)

Date: Thursday, 3rd November 2022
Time: 10:00am – 12:00pm
Venue: Governor's Office City of Rzeszow

General Discussion Highlights:

Opening Remarks by Representative of the Voivode of Podkarpackie and UNHCR

Bogdan Mazur, Director Department of Security and Crisis Management:
Highlighted the readiness of the Voivode for the winter season and taking into consideration the current situation of Ukraine (with conflict impacting critical infrastructures). The Voivode is expecting a winter influx (no estimate on numbers though) and persons will struggle to cope with the winter conditions. Expects the best practices that were established during the response of the initial influx will set the standard and will be better prepared for any subsequent influx. Acknowledges it is difficult to identify estimate #s, has heard ranges from 500,000 to 1M persons – nevertheless over 3M persons have already crossed over Polish border and the response (joint efforts) have been successful. Indeed, some response actions need to be adjusted/modified and will discuss in detail with relevant actors to address – but overall the standards of the initial response are adequate. The Voivode remains actively engaged with authorities and communities along the border. Will help with assistance and relocation (transport). Further, continuous communications with Ukrainian counterparts.

Question from Folkowisko Foundation - Regarding volunteerism, whilst significant support provided by community members during initial influx – not sure will be on the same level if another influx occurs. What can be done?
Response - Firstly the Voivode will be prepared based on practices during previous months and further the Special Act* is in place which addresses most refugee needs. There will be challenges, but the initial influx was impressive and if another influx it will be smaller, so please, trust Polish community to support us if there is a need. The perception that there are less volunteers is because there is less need; there are less Ukrainians and thus less volunteers at present.

Question from Fundacja Q – What can be done about the remaining refugee populations in shelters that require ongoing cash support, don't have enough cash and continue to reside in communal shelters? Further, there may be some difference in estimated # refugees that require assistance.
Response (from Bryant Castro) – We are currently aiming to boost our CBI activities and will discuss CBI activities as part of today's agenda and further in subsequent operational meetings outside of the PCG to address cash needs. Suggest we table this question for the moment.

**Note: Special Act/TPD provides that all eligible for the temporary protection should be provided immediate protection and entitlements, including residency rights, access to the labour market, access to housing and education, social welfare assistance, medical or other assistance, and means of subsistence. It legalizes the stay of Ukrainian citizens (and spouses of Ukrainian citizens) in Poland, who entered from Ukraine on or after 24 February 2022, in connection with military operations on the territory of that country.*

Armen Yedgaryan, Head of UNHCR Sub Office Rzeszów:
Emphasizes appreciation to the Government of Podkarpackie for co-facilitating meeting and engaging in discussions with the humanitarian community. Important to hear from Mr. Bogdan that the preparedness actions from the Voivode are taking place. Whilst the situation in Ukraine is dynamic and

unfortunately, we have seen many changes recently in the situation (escalation), we have not seen any significant impact in terms of border crossings in Podkarpackie. Our colleague form UNHCR Lublin, indicates the similar pattern in Lubelskie – no significant changes in border crossings – however there has been an increase in the number of Ukrainian refugees in the communal shelters. Also take the opportunity to thanks to Mr. Kamil Czyz from the City of Rzeszow for his participation in today's PCG.

City of Rzeszow – Winterization and the City's Action Plan with Opportunities for Refugee Inclusion:	Action Points
Kamil Czyz, Head of the Department of the City Brand, Economic Cooperation and Tourism, City of Rzeszow: A few key points to highlight before jumping into the PowerPoint presentation: (1) The City is supporting Ukraine with the donation of power generators, presently transferring four to Lviv and aiming to identify more. Expects more Ukrainian refugees will arrive during the winter months thus (2) emphasis on inclusion/integration activities is critical. To this aim (3) the City is already collaborating with UNHCR on developing refugee profiling and identifying private company employment needs to match refugee skills with employment opportunities (note this will require addressing support for children/day care). Further (4) the City is partnering with a private German enterprise via MoU to open an Integration Center that will offer activities for both Polish and Ukrainian citizens, once operational will invites organizations to support, and finally (5) concerned that elderly Ukrainian refugees are not receiving sufficient attention in response. Details on the City's work plan and activities are available in the PCG presentation, see slides #6-17.	• City of Rzeszow (Kamil) - to organize municipal coordination meeting with interested humanitarian actors in November to discuss opportunities for collaboration. • Bryant (UNHCR) – to provide Mr. Kamil with the PCG Contact List and 3W forms. - *DONE*
Coordination Updates:	**Action Points**
Bryant Castro, UNHCR Inter-Agency Coordination Officer: Highlight progress on coordination tools and activities, including: 1. **RRP during Phase 2** • Submissions for activities by 4 November via Activity Info – for support email: polwarrpsupport@unhcr.org • From 5 Nov. until 18 Nov. Sector Coordinators review submissions, give feedback and/or approval • 25 Nov. finalize consolidated country-level document with all project submissions and sector narratives 2. **Operational Data Portal (ODP) will include specific Podkarpackie section** • PCG documents (MoM, TORs, etc) available on ODP, but opening Podkarpackie section, Situation Ukraine Refugee Situation (unhcr.org) 3. **Podkarpackie Humanitarian Contact List and 3W (Who does What and Where) tool complete and available** • Link available to PCG Contact List members only, PCG Contact List Podkarpackie_UN_NGO_Only.xlsx (sharepoint.com) • 3W is almost complete but still requires some inputs	1. RRP - *NTR* 2. ODP • UNHCR (Tomasz) - to finalize Podkarpackie section on Operational Data Portal by 9 Nov. 3. 3W and Contact List • All Partners – ensure you provided inputs in the 3W online table. • UNHCR (Bryant) – will share Contact List with relevant municipal authorities (Rzeszow, Medyka, Przemyśl and Jaroslowski) 4. Winterization Workshop

• Question – would partners mind if we share this with relevant authorities for bolstered cooperation? 4. **Winterization Workshop in Przemyśl completed and final output report is available** • Output report and presentation provided to all PCG Contact List members • Interesting to read municipal authorities perspectives on needs and the jointly identified priority activities 5. **CBI actors working to develop Cash Based Intervention (CBI) Referral mechanism** • UNHCR facilitated Podkarpackie level meeting on 28 August between Medair, CORE, IOM, Fundacja Q, PHA, Oxfam to take stock of CBI activities, understand inclusion/exclusion criteria and start initial discussion on referrals. • CORE will convene and facilitate the next meeting on week of 7 November. 6. **Note on privacy concerns in using WhatsApp –> consider Signal** • WhatsApp concerns on data protection and privacy, UNHCR guidelines recommend transitioning over to Signal due to level of encryption. 7. **Propose Emergency Information Signal Group for Contingency/Winter Influx** • Limited group connected with Voivode, municipal authorities along border and 1-2 persons from each org • Not for referrals, only for information updates • Need each org to provide 1-2(max) focal points	• UNHCR (Bryant) - to upload Winterization Workshop output report on ODP for access. 5. CBI Referrals • CORE (Jack) - to convene Podkarpackie CBI actors meeting next week. *6.* WhatsApp - *NTR* 7. Emergency Communications Group • All Partners - Each organization provide 1-2 (max) focal points that will be invited to join this group – send to Bryant, castro@unhcr.org • UNHCR (Bryant) – to draft ToR for group by mid-Nov. • UNHCR will engage bilaterally relevant authorities to participate in group once TORs established.
Shelter Profiling List and Shelter Referrals	**Action Points**
Bryant Castro, UNHCR Inter-Agency Coordination Officer: Ongoing national level process – but within Podkarpackie in close coordination between UNHCR, REACH, IOM, CORE and PUI aim to develop a reliable shelter listing of public and privately managed communal shelters in Podkarpackie. List to provide key contact information of each shelter and capacity – this information will support the development of shelter referral mechanism. UNHCR has updated the list with inclusion of additional approx. 100 sites bringing total to about 202. Partners have met and agreed to complete site verifications by 18 Nov. In parallel draft SOPs on shelter referrals circulated and awaiting feedback from above mentioned partners. Aiming to finalize a workable referral mechanism by 18 Nov, thereafter, share with broader PCG. Goal is to have above prepared ahead of harsh winter and in anticipation of potential influx. REACH will integrate verified site data and integrate into an online site profiling dashboard.	• UNHCR (Bryant) - convene meeting tomorrow, Friday 4th at 9am with UNHCR, IOM, PUI, CORE, Folkowisko Foundation - *DONE* • IOM (Mateusz) – based on discussions to decide how to advance mobile team coordination, potential to integrate or have separate forum, will require TORs
IOM Mobile Team Coordination	**Action Points**
Mateusz Mejza, IOM Team Leader – Mobile Teams: IOM facilitated an ad-hoc mobile team coordination meeting in Sept based on discussions of partners in the bi-weekly Przemyśl forum (IOM, Soleterre, OXFAM, MedAir). The aim of meeting was to discuss	• IOM (Mateusz) - to integrate mobile team discussions into the ongoing 'Shelter

ways to avoid duplications or re-peat visits to shelters, limit the interview fatigue of shelter managers and identify way refer. Presently a follow up meeting is pending discussions at the PCG and jointly deciding best way to proceed.	Profiling and Shelter Referrals group', that was started by UNHCR (Bryant) • UNHCR (Keli) and IOM (Mateusz) – moving forwards will co-facilitate meetings as necessary
Service Mapping	**Action Points**
Mateusz Mejza, IOM Team Leader – Service Mapping: IOM developed comprehensive multi-sectoral service mapping tool (Excel based) covering Podkarpackie using information collected by mobile teams, by remote verification (calls) and desk research. The listing is a useful tool to help provide accurate information to refugees and migrants. Categories of service listings include: access to education, legal support, accommodation, health services, PSS, social care, employment and diplomatic services. It is currently used internally but can be shared with other actors. IOM posed questions regarding the possibility of consolidating service mapping information between actors, developing a public website where information can be accessible to refugees?	• IOM (Mateusz) – agreed to share Service Mapping (provide to Bryant). • UNHCR (Bryant) - to upload IOM and also UNHCR service mapping tools on share drive – so all PCG actors have access to information.
Bryant Castro, UNHCR Inter-Agency Coordination Officer: Many actors maintaining internal service mapping yet have not consolidated. At the national level the IMWG is working on an inter-agency mapping of services in coordination with the Protection Sector, GBV and CP Sub-Sectors, and the MHPSS WG. Moving forward UNHCR will hire staff dedicated to development of a multi-partner service mapping platform. Open to discussion on visibility (logos) for all contributing partners - not a solely UNHCR branded tool.	• UNHCR (Bryant) - to channel any Podkarpackie related service mapping to IMWG. • Medair (Alex) – to provide their service mapping to Bryant, will upload.
GBV and Child Protection Referral Pathways:	**Action Points**
Zelinda Aromorach, UNHCR GBV Officer and **José Luis Hernández, UNHCR Child Protection Officer:** In coordination with respective sub-sectors, have developed draft referral pathways with initial inputs. The pathways are essentially a guide for frontline workers to use in case there is identification of GBV survivors or children requiring protection (unaccompanied but also includes other profiles). The pathways indicate steps that should be taken from identification to provision of immediate assistance and then onwards referral to access other services. At this stage, the pathways require additional inputs from Podkarpackie actors before validation, and then subsequently they will be sent to national sub-sectors for finalization. Inputs are requested by Tuesday 8 Nov.	• UNHCR (Bryant) - to distribute both referral pathway documents to PCG members – *DONE* • All Partners – provide feedback by 8th November Tuesday, COB 1. GBV Feedback to Zelinda Aromorach, aromorac@unhcr.org 2. CP feedback to: to Jose Luis Hernandez, hernandj@unhcr.org
Partner Updates	**Action Points**
UNHCR – Draft Contingency Planning: UNHCR prepared internal national contingency plan (for conflict related influx) with CO and office in Lublin, Rzeszow and Krakow inputs. The plan is based on influx scenario and thereafter uses a matrix to	• UNHCR (Armen) - to consult government authorities for initial inputs, thereafter, will share with PCG partners for feedback

identify relevant preparedness actions and response actions, including the identification of triggers (e.g. # persons who cross in Poland per day) that would active the response actions. UNHCR in the process of consulting the Government on the plan to receive feedback, but thereafter UNHCR will share with partners to support inter-partner coordination and joint preparedness/response. See presentation slides #38-49.	
CORE – Shelter Rehabilitation Activities and Cash Based Intervention (CBI): Shelter needs are significant in the region, considering present estimated refugee population and potential influx scenario there are not sufficient available number of emergency and longer-term accommodation. CORE in partnership with UNHCR, is starting rehabilitation works next week in four locations (Medyka, Radymno, Przemysl and Krosno) that will support up to 1,6000 persons. Estimated completion date by 31 December. Additionally, CORE will rehabilitate Przemysl Sports Complex that can house up to 150 longer terms residents in partnership with Medair and IOM. Phase 1 of the project to be completed by 31 December. Besides shelter support, CORE in partnership with UNHCR, started CBI activities last week with a cash registration site at the Protection Hub and planning for a mobile team to visit location outside of Rzeszow. Target is approximately 770HH.	• NTR
World Health Organization: WHO has established hotline for healthcare professionals coming from Ukraine – it provides information to orientate them and gain familiarization with healthcare environment, system and accreditation/requirements in Poland. Also developed an online course on chronic illnesses. Based on a recent MHPSS needs assessment for frontline workers, WHO is rolling out a new training for Facilitators of *Doing What Matters in Time of Stress* for staff involved in MHPSS activities (e.g. psychologists, social workers, volunteers, students of psychology, pedagogy etc.). It is a free of charge and WHO will cover the cost of travel, accommodation and food. Training is given in Ukrainian language with simultaneous translation into Polish. The duration of the training: 3 days. Training date option are: Warszawa // 7-9 December - Kraków // 12-14 December - Rzeszow// 19-21 December. Additional information, please contact WHO Poland, Olga Khan: khanol@who.int	• WHO (Olga) – to provide invitation and link to Bryant to distribute to PCG by mail - *DONE* • All interested staff - may register for training using link: Registration Form
UNICEF: UNICEF affirmed support inter-agency efforts and the PCG's action points; to review the GBV and CP referral pathways and disseminate internally to relevant staff that can provide feedback, and regarding Blue Dots: currently operational in four locations providing information and child friendly activities – with one more BD opening at the Przemyśl train station and considering possibility of opening two additional in Rzeszow City and Warsaw (TBC).	• *NTR*
PSAR/TUTU: Continuing operation at Rzeszow Center and Protection Hub, including education related programming in partnership with PUI and UNHCR. PSAR/TUTU has published fantastic children's book with animation to educate young readers about discrimination and encourage community inclusion. Approximately 7,000	• Any interested orgs can request copies of book; contact Jan Marković; email: j.markovic@psar.pl or tel: 0048 606 714 431

books are published and interested organizations can request copies for onwards distribution to children and/or parents.	

Participants:

Organization	Name	Surname	Organization	Name	Surname
ACF	Giannis	Antrias	Pro-Fil	Ciro	Gialli
ADRA	Joanna	Piechnik	Project Hope	Ally	Bronson
CARITAS	ks Paweł	Konieczny	PSAR/TUTU	Barbara	Michalik
City of Rzeszów	Kamil	Czyż	PSAR/TUTU	Jan	Marković
CORE	Izabela	Mierzwa	PUI	Anouche	Parsegian
CORE	Jack	Haffner	SOLETERRE	Gioele	Scavuzzo
Folkowisko Foundation	Marcin	Piotrowski	SOLETERRE	Mariarosaria	Boraccia
Folkowisko Foundation	Volodymyr	Mycholyskyn	Ukrainian House	Olga	Leskiw
Fundacja Q	Marcin	Kurnik	UNHCR	Kamil	Raczyński
Fundacja Q	Sana	Vitvitska	UNHCR	Armen	Yedgaryan
Habitat For Humanity	Alicja	Szczutowska	UNHCR	Shkelquim	Shehu
IOM	Magdalena	Kuśka	UNHCR	Zelinda	Aromorach
IOM	Anna	Verbeke	UNHCR	Tomasz	Pajda
IOM	Mateusz	Mejza	UNHCR	Adriana	Negry
MEDAIR	Alex	Cameron	UNHCR	Rick	Sollom
MEDAIR	Alexandra	Wojtowicz	UNHCR	Jose Luis	Hernandez
OXFAM	Lisa	Scharinger	UNHCR	Agnieszka	Kubiak
OXFAM	Robert	Bielecki	UNHCR	Bryant	Castro
P. Hope	Lucia	Uscafegui	UNICEF	Dmytro	Tretiak
Polish Red Cross	Alicja	Bobola	Voivodship Office	Agnieszka	Kisała
Polish Red Cross	Emilia	Łabędzka	Voivodship Office	Dorota	Szubart
Pro-Fil	Tomasz	Kobylański	Voivodship Office	Bogdan	Mazur
WHO	Olga	Khan	ZHP (Scouts)	Mariusz	Bezdzietny
WHO EMT CC	Tienna	Phan			

Contact: castro@unhcr.org

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