

## Winterization and Situational Analysis Workshop in Przemyśl

Date: Thursday, 13th October 2022

Time: 11:00am – 15:00pm

Venue: Mayor's Office City of Przemyśl

### General Discussion Highlights:

<b>Introduction:</b>
<b>Bryant Castro, Inter-Agency Coordination Officer Rzeszów:</b> Explained objectives and logistics of workshop. Highlight the importance of understanding the perspective of the local and regional authorities, with an aim to harmonize our situational awareness. Further aim to jointly review the different coordination tools and datasets that are being used, with a view to identify ways to improve and strengthen.
<b>Opening Remarks:</b>
<b>Maciej Szeremeta, Department of Civil Affairs and Crisis Management in City of Przemyśl</b> Przemyśl is main point of entry for refugees. Municipality and others have facilitated info and services to newcomers but note that many of the refugees arrive without any plans about their journey and don't know what to do upon arrival, therefore accurate and relevant information provision and outreach is essential. During winter, a greater influx of refugees is expected and one of the challenges will be to provide shelter for people who are currently residing in unheated temporary shelters around Lviv - the number of such people may reach 250,000. In the optimistic scenario, about 10 thousand refugees may reach Przemyśl but in an influx scenario it could be significantly higher (concerning).
<b>Armen Yedgaryan, Head of UNHCR Sub Office Rzeszów:</b> This workshop is a good chance to come together to jointly see how we can effectively work together to address the needs of refugees. The workshop is about winterization, establishing a common understanding and approaches while also a contribution for preparedness (contingency) planning in support of the Government. With the aim of winterization, UNHCR started many projects including distribution of NFI directly to authorities for their onward distribution and/or stocking. Shortly, through our partnership with CORE, will begin the renovation of communal facilities in the region. While our cash initiative is underway to distribute monthly allotments to the most vulnerable. It will include up to 600 household (2000 refugees). These are three key areas on which UNHCR is focusing. These activities, along with other actors' plans for winter should be supported by coordination, which is a very important part of the response. Thank you to the municipality for hosting this very important meeting, it is an indication of commitment to collaboration.
<b>Briefing by the Authorities:</b>
<b>Maciej Szeremeta, Department of Civil Affairs and Crisis Management in City of Przemyśl:</b> After the first wave of refugees, the situation has normalized during the summer months. The emergence of a pendular movement, that is crossing on the border in both ways with a tendency to return. Winter however may be a challenge due to a possible significant increase in the number of new refugees. The city will continue to provide and promote services via assigning PESEL numbers which can open opportunities for additional benefits. That said the city will need bolstered support (from humanitarian community) for the winter season, such as more supplies, thermal comforters, thermal clothes for

individuals, capacity to provide warm food, improved or rehabilitated heating systems and power generators in communal shelters, and more broadly sufficient and adequate accommodation.

**Jacek Paniw, Coordinator at the Railway Station on behalf of the City of Przemyśl:**

Over the previous weeks there was a trend of more people leaving Poland, but over the last few days (due to latest attacks) more people are coming in again. For example, over the last few weeks about 1500 - 1600 refugees were coming in four special trains from Ukraine each day. Now the number increased to 2000 – 2300 refugees, less than half of that number are going back to Ukraine. The increase highlights the potential for new problems, especially with reception points: how to ensure systematic transport from BCP & reception points and onwards to shelters for temporary accommodation. The train station reception point can provide humanitarian aid/accommodation for up to 4 hours (or just overnight if refugees arrive late and are taking morning train), thereafter persons need to be transported to temporary accommodation. Podkarpackie is typical transit region, so the city is focused (trying) on creating temporary accommodation to provide shelter for all in need (noting limited long-term accommodation options). Improving transport services is critical, especially between BCP-reception points-temporary accommodation. At the beginning of the influx, 10 cars serviced by the city and Polish Red Cross were available however now, only two cars are available. A priority would be to buy cars for the city and with the aim to transport refugees and support the distribution of NFI and food.

**Bartłomiej Barszczak, Head of the Office of the Mayor of Przemyśl:**

Highlight that there are over 1 million of Ukrainians IDPs in proximity to western UKR border. Expecting (or significant possibility) a lot of them to arrive in the next weeks in Poland. TESCO center may accommodate approx. 1000 refugees. UNHCR is supporting renovations of some buildings to receive refugees, including schools. City expecting about 2,000 refugees to remain in the city and for others aim to facilitate their onward journey. Main needs in terms of winterization, but highlighting a few: warm food and hygiene products, services for removal of snow and power generators. Further the City is expecting problems with electricity in the more peri-urban/rural areas. The city has standby shelters which are prepared to become operational within 24 hours [though the specific name/location of shelters not provided]. Host community (Polish) households will also play a role and try to help according to needs and their capacities.

**Marta Maj-Urban, Head of the Department of Social Affairs in City of Przemyśl:**

It is very important to offer services to smaller cities and attract refugees to relocate there, and not create congestion in only a few larger cities. Need for creating accommodation in other cities. Also establishing a network for help/services should be created in smaller locations. The most vulnerable people are elderly and people with disabilities (PwD) that require special services, specialized goods, care and medication – this is a gap that needs addressing. In relation to key transit points, will need to set up heating locations in these places where people may build up and have to wait. It is also important to share information such as who does what; creating matrix of contacts from different organizations would be helpful. One issue that has been overlooked, unfortunately some people die during the journey - provide the necessary funeral services has been problematic and is a current gap.

**Krzysztof Kowal, Head of the Security Department in Powiat Jarosławski:**

Powiat Jarosławski has been organizing a reception center Hala Kijowska in Młyny. The reception point was a great idea, but faced various challenges: for example, in supporting persons with disabilities and children without documentation. The powiat has identified needs and want to initiate new actions in terms of reception and assistance, however extra support is needed. Voivodship has planned for some activities however bottom-up actions (initiated from

the Powiat) are not really possible (as need Voivode support/approval to advance). In case of influx, providing food and temporary shelters has also been a challenging. The rule reception points is that a person may spend up to 48 hrs, however what not clear what to do if they don't want to move further or have nowhere else to go. It's important to jointly find options and solutions and how to deal with those that want to stay (due to various reasons). When it comes to temporary shelters, there are a few communal shelters with around 400 refugees total. We collect population data at the shelters every Wednesday, but the situation varies a lot. Similar to Przemysl, winter in Jarosławski will present new challenges especially if there is a need to create another reception point, it will require support with NFIs and food.

**Agnieszka Cynowska – Porada - Head of the Office of Crisis Management and Civil Protection, Powiat Przemyski:**

The terms of aid provided from the powiat, in cooperation with Voivode, it created the reception center and provided interpretation services, first care, psychosocial support and assistance, and provided transport for around 20,000 people from Medyka Reception Point and helped refugees to go to their final (or temporary) destinations. The powiat received various funds and bought goods, including food and hygiene items. The powiat also supported the center with coordination with and assisted local organizations and community associations.

**Reflection on Briefing:**

**Tom White (UNICEF):** During the first wave of refugee influx a huge number of Polish people welcomed them into their homes and they played a key role in integrating, supporting and facilitating the inclusion of Ukrainian refugees within communities. The problem is in the potential event of an additional influx, given the current economic situation with high inflation, rising heating costs - there is a need to find an incentive (support) for host families. They may be willing to take in refugees but for practical/economic reasons may not be able to do so.

**Transition to Group Work:**

**Bryant Castro (UNHCR):**

Presented results from three key studies that highlight needs and intentions:

- Protection Monitoring done by UNHCR and REACH, 2,532 interviews from across the country: Priority needs indicated by interviewees are 40% cash, employment, 37%.
- Intentions Profiling covering region affected by Ukraine crisis, 4900 interviews with more than 2,320 in Poland: 65% of respondents would like to stay in current country.
- Multi-Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA): 1280 interviews across Poland, with 50 in Podkarpackie. Small number yet indicative of general needs: Top three needs are Cash (55%), Food (43%), Clothes (22%). Another service identified is language courses at roughly 15%.

**Vulnerable Profiles:**

Discussions validated many of profiles that were highlighted in the Warsaw-level Winterization Workshop while contributing a few additional to at risk groups, including the Polish community - identified with concerns that they will be increasingly under stress and less inclined to volunteerism/support for and open to hosting UKR refugees in their communities and/or homes..

- Children; UAC
- Children without transportation to schools (especially in rural areas)
- Women (pregnant; lactating)
- Mothers 50+

- Female headed households
- People with mental problems, requiring psychological assistance
- People who come from occupied territories – might have more or specific needs (incl. PSS)
- People with disabilities, especially those residing in communal shelters
- People with chronicle diseases
- People who need long-term and/or specialized medical care (e.g., rehabilitation)
- Minority nationalities (Roma ethnicity)
- TCNs newly arrived or who lost their legal status in Poland
- Elderly people; specifying non-accompanied elderly people
- Polish host community (due to inflation, costs of utilities bills, etc.)

### Gaps and Operational Challenges in Podkarpackie

#### Shelter

- Legal gaps in transformation of places into social accommodation for long-stay
- Lack of locations for shelters in big cities
- No structured financial programs for private shelters providers (e.g. hotels, hostels, etc.); some organizations have difficulty providing aid to private shelters (maybe internal regulations) – despite importance of private shelters.

#### Host Community Support

- Perception of discrimination against or less attention to needs of Polish host community (as most programs are supporting refugees only)

#### Protection

- No or limited shared methodology (amongst partners using mobile teams) to identify and/or access vulnerable profiles across urban, peri-urban and more rural locations
- No regular accessible/shared profiling needs according to refugee profiles
- Lack of reliable information about facilities and services across voivod (e.g., schools, medical care, etc.)

#### Coordination and Planning

- Inadequate community response capacity for new influx with fewer Polish families willing to host refugees
- Human resources (low number of local and international volunteers) compared with initial influx
- (Perception) that municipalities are not prepared for the winter period (or at least limited information to make determination)
- Limited contingency plans as local administration activities depend on voivodeship management to clarify plan
- Lack of coordination amongst the various shelter actors and managers
- Insufficient sharing of information between UN Agencies, NGOs and other actors
- False or inaccurate information on services and assistance circulating within refugee population (social media)
- Connection and coordination with other key regions (like Krakow) to understand dynamics, best practices and challenges
- Fluid movement of refugee population (in search of accommodation and employment) makes planning longer-term activities challenging

#### Health

- Difficulties to access to specialized health care provision

- Costs of specialized translation for medical documentation (medical, disabilities, etc.)

#### Education

- Differences between Ukrainian vs Polish school systems makes continuity and/or integration difficult (especially for high school & language barrier)
- Schools are often used as emergency shelters, at the expense of education and learning.
- Challenges of limited physical educational space for Ukrainian children
- Limited or more difficult access to learning (maybe due administrative, cultural or discrimination reasons) for Ukrainian children

#### Trafficking risks

- Overall trafficking remains a risk with limited capacity to identify survivors
- Gaps in establishing a volunteer vetting system, e.g., if volunteers provide transports, provide temporary accommodation, etc.

### Suggested Priority Locations for Assistance in Podkarpackie

While Podkarpackie is a transit state for many UKR refugees, it also maintains a sizeable UKR refugee population (that may expand in the event of winter influx) residing in the larger cities and peri-urban areas. Further in the case of another influx the profiles would likely be more vulnerable population that aim to stay as close to Ukraine as possible. The priority locations require adequate preparations to prevent build-up in case of an influx – that is sufficient resources and coordination to ensure systematic referral to transport hubs or temporary accommodation facilities.

Location requiring specific preparatory and (ongoing in case of winter influx) attention:

- Border towns
- Przemyśl
- Railway station in Przemyśl
- Medyka (BCP)
- Budomierz (BCP)

### Suggested Priority Needs in Podkarpackie

#### Shelter Related

- Adequate assistance to Roma people in finding a place to stay
- Previously used ad-hoc facilities that accommodated refugees during influx (e.g. schools) are ready to re-activate if necessary
- Shelter with adequate thermal capacity for winter months
- Sufficient funding to keep private shelters operational
- Available (and reliable) referral for long-term accommodation

### Suggested Priority Activities in Podkarpackie

#### Shelter Related

- Open new shelters or transform existing facilities with capacity for long term accommodation
- Renovation or rehabilitate currently operational shelters and formerly used “standby” shelters (to prepare for re-use)
- Arrange special facilities or areas in shelters for people with disabilities and isolation if have communicable illness (e.g. COVID)
- Upgrade shelters with adequate thermal support and/or heaters and consider supporting costs for heating bills
- Advocate for and promote financial programs (and/or NFI, or covering utility bills) to support private shelters

<p><b>Coordination and Planning Related</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Reliable and comprehensive Information about available social services (services provided by the authorities, municipalities, etc) – in urban, peri-urban and rural areas</li> <li>- Updated and accessible shelter listing that can be used for daily and emergency referral</li> <li>- Mapping of UN Agency and NGOs services</li> <li>- Available referral pathways for specific needs of minorities (Roma ethnicity)</li> <li>- Adequate services in rural areas, e.g., smaller towns far from the big cities</li> <li>- Lack of equitable number of national actors in coordination forums</li> </ul>	<p><b>Coordination and Planning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consolidate existing service mapping amongst Podkarpackie actors and develop sub-regional tool, to include peri-urban and rural areas (coordinate with National level Sectors/Sub-Sectors on this)</li> <li>- Create space for coordination of shelters managers (i.e. “Podkarpackie Shelter Working Group”)</li> <li>- Continuation of shelter mapping in close cooperation with municipalities, identify existing operational and “standby” shelters and actualize the data base and public dashboard</li> <li>- Developing an operational referral system for shelters that all partners can use in case of influx</li> <li>- Mapping of supplies in stock and pre-positioning amongst partners</li> <li>- Humanitarian advocacy – including on finding solution (policy) for longer term accommodation</li> <li>- Integrate as possible more national actors (NNGOs) in Podkarpackie Coordination Group</li> </ul>
<p><b>Protection Related</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Availability of hot meals for refugees crossing border</li> <li>- Better communication strategy/resources to reach Roma community</li> <li>- Better understanding and adaptation to needs of Roma community</li> <li>- Specialized organization that can work with and cooperate with Roma community</li> <li>- Regularly shared information on borders monitoring</li> <li>- Accessible informational points in all border crossing points</li> <li>- Availability of financial aid for Polish host community</li> <li>- Access to financial (cash based on vulnerability) assistance for refugees</li> </ul>	<p><b>Protection Related</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify an NGO (maybe local) that can work more closely with Roma ethnicity community</li> <li>- Develop guidance on Communications (CwC) to reach Roma community; disseminate amongst partners</li> <li>- Develop referral pathways that are adapted for Roma community (as might have specific needs)</li> <li>- Strengthen and systematize CFM, e.g., suggestions boxes in BlueDots</li> <li>- Assistance in communication between refugees in Podkarpackie and Ukrainian consulates, and address difficulty in transportation to consulates as none are in Podkarpackie. Passport procedures often require physical visit to consulates which is burden.</li> <li>- Roll out coordinated (between partners and municipalities) CBI with agreed upon vulnerability profiles/criteria through the winter months at minimum</li> </ul>
<p><b>Health and Nutrition Related</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access to medical care for persons in peri-urban, rural areas</li> </ul>	<p><b>Health and Nutrition Related</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide mobile medical care and MHPSS outside of larger cities</li> </ul>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Access to special rehabilitation centers, including mental care and long-term rehabilitation</li><li>- Ensure adequate understanding and informed decision making for medical response</li><li>- Adequate information about medical centers (mapping)</li><li>- Sufficient food, including specific requirements for pregnant/lactating mothers and children/infants.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Employment of Ukrainian translators to support medical translation and consultation with patients (when Polish understanding is not sufficient)</li><li>- Ensure provision of food (including special supplements for pregnant/lactating women, kids) remains part of response</li></ul>
<p><b>Socio-Economic Inclusion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Consistent availability of Polish language courses (with provision of childcare during classes)</li><li>- Access to employment and inclusion within communities</li></ul>	<p><b>Socio-Economic Inclusion</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Establishing youth (UKR-POL) network for engagement with community</li><li>- Provide training for refugees in Polish language and specialized language (that may be necessary for employment) and provide recognized certificates for verification.</li><li>- Provide technical or skills trainings so refugees may acquire new competencies for job opportunities (consider partnerships with technical institutions, chamber of commerce, private companies, etc.)</li></ul>
<p><b>Basic Needs</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Transport between special institutions, administration facilities and accommodation places</li><li>- Transport to distant schools in remote areas with limited public transport</li><li>- Availability of (economical) transportation between/to shelters outside of main cities</li><li>- Sufficient winter specific clothes</li><li>- Adequate winterization of staging or waiting areas at all BCPs</li></ul>	<p><b>Basic Needs/NFI</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Organize or support (free or subsidized vouchers) transportation for refugees (intra- or inter-city) – especially if promoting use of shelters outside of larger cities (decongestion policy), at border points and/or for refugees with specific needs</li><li>- Creation of a place (or an agreement with) like a store where refugees can choose the right sizes of clothes using vouchers</li><li>- Improved segregation of NFIs in Przemysl, especially cloths</li><li>- Opening places where refugees can warm up/heating spots at border crossing points (heaters and/or rub hall)</li><li>- Providing the necessary amount of winter related clothes and NFIs (e.g., warm blankets)</li></ul>
<p><b>Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Access to education and safe learning spaces</li><li>- Reliable and streamlined access to learning for Ukrainian children</li><li>- Strengthened integration with Polish communities</li></ul>	<p><b>Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Protect and preserve the schools as a place for education and learning; not converted into shelters.</li><li>- Promote access to education and learning – both in Ukrainian curriculum and Polish (the choice should be offered)</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Engage Ukrainian teachers and facilitate their support/employment/involvement in education for Ukrainian children in Poland</li> <li>- After school workshops and activities for Ukrainian and Polish children (bring them together)</li> </ul>
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#### Priority Data Sets

See PowerPoint (pdf) presentation for results

#### Improving Coordination

See PowerPoint (pdf) presentation for results

#### Participants:

Organization	Name	Surname	Organization	Name	Surname
City Przemyśl	Marta	Maj - Urban	PUI	Nadege	Chassaing
City Przemyśl	Bartłomiej	Barszczak	PUI	Anouche	Parsegian
City Przemyśl	Jacek	Paniw	SOLETERRE	Lisa	Ranzenigo
City Przemyśl	Maciej	Szeremeta	SOLETERRE	Giulia	Mascia
CORE	Ewelina	Bosak	Ukrainian House	Olga	Leskiw
CORE	Jack	Haffner	UNHCR	Zelinda	Aromorach
Fundacja Q	Sana	Vitvitska	UNHCR	Bryant	Castro
Gmina Medyka	Sabina	Banaś	UNHCR	Małgorzata	Chmielnik
Habitat for Humanity	Alicja	Szczutowska	UNHCR	Shkelqim	Shehu
INTERSOS	Alice	Silvestro	UNHCR	Tomasz	Pajda
INTERSOS	Giulia	Olivieri	UNHCR	Helene	Michalak
INTERSOS	Karolina	Granka	UNHCR	Irene	Coello
IOM	Eminetur	Cinar	UNHCR	Armen	Yedgaryan
IOM	Magdalena	Kuśka	UNHCR	Iryna	Kostiuk
IOM	Mateusz	Mejza	UNHCR	Albina	Chvylova
MEDAIR	Alex	Cameron	UNHCR	Denys	Ustinyenkov
OXFAM	Shalid	Khan	UNHCR	Nataliya	Lipska
PCK	Agata	Kasprzycka	UNHCR	Alla	Yashkova
PCK	Maciej	Maruszak	UNICEF	Tom	White
Powiat Jarosław	Krzysztof	Kowal	WHO	Tienna	Phan
Powiat Przemyski	Agnieszka	Cynowska – Porada	WHO	Silvia	Gatscher
Powiat Przemyski	Aneta	Perduta			

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