

Małopolska Coordination Group Meeting

Meeting Minutes – 20 October 2022

Meeting subject:	Małopolska Coordination Group Meeting
Time & location:	9 am – UNHCR Krakow Sub-Office
Chaired by:	VOICE Amplified; UNHCR; Open Krakow Coalition
Minutes prepared by:	UNHCR
Participants:	Małopolski Urząd Wojewódzki; CLEAR Global; Faros Elpidas; French General Consulate; Fundacja Jedność; Fundacja Kocham Debniki; Fundacja Źródło Życia; Halina Niec Leal Aid Center; Integracyjne Stowarzyszenie Sawore; IOM; Misja Słowaska; OWIM; RSO Harangos; Save the Children International; Stowarzyszenie Jududoro; Stowarzyszenie Romano-Iłó; Polski Czerwony Krzyż; Project Hope; UNICEF; UNHCR; VOICE Amplified; Wolontariat 4 Peron; ZHP Chorągiew Krakowska;
Agenda:	<p>Introduction from the co-chairs and update on the points decided on the last Coordination meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Updates from the refugee community and UA-led organizations2) Updates on the RRP Exercise (deadlines and next steps)3) Updates on winterization and accommodation (partners)4) AOB
AGENDA POINT	DISCUSSION
Introduction and update on points from last meeting	<p>Participants were welcomed to the fifth Małopolska Coordination Group meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• VOICE Amplified provided an update about the organization’s activities. VOICE Amplified now has an office space in Krakow. The space is being used to host meetings of the Women and Children Working Group. VOICE Amplified also remains available to help partners with the 2023 Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) process.• UNHCR provided updates about current and upcoming activities. In November, UNHCR will be running a participatory assessment in various locations in Poland – including in Krakow. The participatory assessment is an annual exercise which brings together refugees from different groups and age ranges for group discussions aimed at better understanding the needs and problems they face. Organizations interested in participating may express interest to UNHCR by emailing Francois Kernin (kernin@unhcr.org). Starting in November, UNHCR will also continue the cash assistance program for refugees. Cash will be targeted to refugees with vulnerable profiles. UNHCR is open to referrals from partners who have identified refugees

	<p>requiring additional support. . Additionally, on 27 October, UNHCR will be running a workshop on Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA). Interested partners can contact Tai Sayarath (sayarath@unhcr.org). From 25 November to 10 December, UNHCR will be running a 16 Days of Activism campaign. This is an annual campaign meant to raise awareness in respect to gender-based violence. In Poland annual events are also run by Fundacja Autonomia. Partners interested in participating – either through UNHCR or independently – can contact Tai Sayarath (sayarath@unhcr.org).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VOICE Amplified noted that the organization also provides PSEA workshops and has two experts on the Krakow team. Partners can reach out to Tetiana Herasymova (tetiana@voiceamplified.org) if they are interested in additional PSEA sessions.
Agenda point 1	<p>There were no updates provided under the given agenda point.</p>
Agenda point 2	<p>UNHCR thanked partners for their interest and engagement in RRP planning and information sessions over the past weeks and provided an update on the RRP process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The submission of the expression of interest with basic budget breakdown was due on 19 October. Between 19 and 21 October the results framework (activities and indicators) will be shared with partners. The deadline for partner project submissions is 4 November. Following review by sector and working group coordinators, partners will be notified in case of rejection and may adapt or withdraw their submissions. The final review of project submissions will take place by 18 November.
Agenda point 3	<p>Under the given agenda point participants discussed the situation of refugees who had returned to Ukraine and subsequently re-entered Poland, as well as the situation of the Roma community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Krakow Banner of the Polish Scouting Association provided observations about recent trends at the Krakow train station relocation point. The point serves to centralize and coordinate all relocation efforts in Krakow. Based on anecdotal observations, there has not been a noted increase in the number of families approaching the train station for relocation assistance. However, the profile of the families has changed. A large number of families – perhaps 75% - are new arrivals. These are families which came to Krakow straight from Ukraine, and also those which crossed other EU borders and then traveled Poland. Many arrivals coming straight from Ukraine have left cities such as Mariupol and Zaporizhia. As well, there are cases of families who initially came to Poland, then left – either back to Ukraine or further

into the EU – and have now returned to Poland. According to legislation, these individuals are entitled to re-apply and be re-approved for UKR status. Re-application must be done at the Municipality (gmina) level.

- 4 Platform Volunteers confirmed that many recent arrivals have been coming from Zaporizhia. As well, it has been reported that many families who initially came to Poland, returned to Ukraine, and now have come back to Poland are having difficulty receiving benefits, even if they have had PESEL numbers. This means they are also having difficulty accessing relocation assistance.
- Romano-Ito Association noted that the requirement for PESEL re-applications to be processed through regular municipal structures means that returning refugees can only apply during normal working hours. If refugees arrive on a Friday evening or during a weekend, they must wait until Monday to re-apply for a PESEL number and UKR status. Until they re-apply they are not entitled to assistance. As a result, refugees may be left without the right to any assistance or accommodation for several days following arrival.
- The Krakow Banner of the Polish Scouting Association highlighted that the matter of being able to re-apply for UKR status only during business hours and the potential problems this causes is a systemic issue. As such, this is not something that relocation coordinators at the train station have any influence over and not something that can be resolved at the local level.
- The Małopolska Voivodeship Office highlighted available places in collective shelters in the Voivodeship's database must be kept at a certain level in case they are needed for emergency use. The Voivodeship also cannot relocate refugees to specific locations, such as inside Krakow city, solely because the refugees request it. In regards to availability, the situation with accommodation in Krakow is difficult as a result of shortages of space. However, there remain many available spots in accommodation in other parts of the Voivodeships outside of Krakow. In general, the standard of these accommodations is high. However, refugees remain reluctant to leave the city. It is also a rumor that there are no specialized services, such as those for disabled people, outside of Krakow. In cities such as Mysłenice and Wieliczka care and help is also available. Given the above problems, accommodation shortages in Krakow will continue unless refugees begin moving to other parts of the Voivodeship where there are more accommodation opportunities available. As such, partners are asked to share information about opportunities outside of Krakow city and the recommend smaller cities and towns to refugees.
- Romano-Ito Association raised the issue of treatment of Roma individuals, as there have been instances where they have been rejected the help to which they are entitled.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Krakow Banner of the Polish Scouting Association emphasized that all individuals who come the Krakow train station are treated equally and receive the same help. • Romano-Ito Association highlighted that concerns about unequal treatment are not limited to the train station, and may extend to collective shelters which do not want to host members of the Roma community. The train station coordinators can only relocate refugees to collective shelters, they cannot keep track of how Roma individuals are subsequently treated. The Association knows of some shelters where there are 10-15 open places, but they do not want to take any Roma individuals. Furthermore, the Association is aware that many people in besieged areas of Ukraine are waiting only for permission from authorities to evacuate. As such, a large second wave of entries into Poland can be expected. • Harangos asked participants if any had contacts to organizations willing to take members of the Roma community. The situation is difficult and winter is coming, so this kind of assistance is very needed. • I Love Debniki foundation asked how large the Roma community in need of accommodation help is. The Foundation further noted that perhaps in the case of large Roma groups, collective shelters need to be arranged differently. • Romano-Ito Association replied that it is difficult to determine this exactly. In some cases families have become separated. For example, several family members might end up in Warsaw and others in Krakow. These family members may want to reunite and would therefore be looking for accommodation in one specific location. Some Roma groups are also large and can be comprised of 20 or 30 individuals, which poses specific challenges. • The Krakow Banner of the Polish Scouting Association shared information about the experience of relocating Roma families. Some families want to be relocated to specific locations, which is not possible. In some instances linguistic and cultural differences have been encountered. Some Roma families do not speak Ukrainian, which requires different translation capacities. In other instances, Roma families reject offers of donated goods, such as hygiene kits, because they are most comfortable asking for help from members of their own communities. In addition, many Roma groups consist of mothers with multiple young children. As such, these are women who will have difficulty taking up employment once they have been relocated and will require ongoing assistance.
AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Partners noted the need for further discussion or perhaps a dedicated meeting on specific challenges faced by the Roma community.

- CLEAR Global announced that focus group discussions on creating a Polish language dictionary of humanitarian language will take place on 20 and 25 October. Both sessions are still looking for participants.
- Save the Children shared that the organization is still trying to meet its cash assistance target. Partners who have identified families that have not yet received cash assistance from other non-governmental organizations are encouraged to get in contact with Ghulam Sakhi-Rahjoe (Ghulam.sakhi-rahjoe@savethechildren.org).
- I Love Debniki Foundation shared that spots are still open in workshops and after school activities for children. The Foundation has observed that attendance in these activities has decreased relative to participation in camps run over the summer. The reason is likely that many children are attending both Polish and Ukrainian school simultaneously, and are already overwhelmed. Partners interested in learning more are encouraged to contact Olga Piasecka Niec (olga@kochamdebniki.pl)
- UNICEF noted the discussion about disabilities, especially children with disabilities. UNICEF further highlighted that in partnership with the city of Krakow UNICEF has established several centers providing different services to children with disabilities. If any partners have identified a child case with disabilities, they can contact Polat Kizildag (pkizildag@unicef.org) to explore the possibility of referrals to services.
- I Love Debniki Foundation asked if it would be possible to receive information and data from front line workers on how the situation is developing. There has been discussion for weeks about the changing situation, and more concrete information would be helpful.
- IOM shared that from the perspective of border areas, cross border movement in general remains at the same level as before. There have not been a noted number of new arrivals into Poland. However, the number of returns into Ukraine has decreased.
- The Independent Consultation to Internationaler Bund Polska proposed organizing a meeting on how the RPP can be used to raise the visibility of participating organizations. Additionally, the Consultant noted a need to maintain interest and trust in the coordination meeting. Perhaps this could be done through an RRP launch event in Krakow.

ACTION POINTS SUMMARY

No.	Action	Responsible	Deadline	Status (as of)
-----	--------	-------------	----------	-----------------

1.	Continue engaging with the RRP process	All Partners	18 Nov.	Ongoing
2	Organize dedicated meeting on specific challenges faced by the Roma community, or incorporate as an agenda point during next Coordination meeting	Co-chairs	3 Nov.	Ongoing

PARTNERS' ONGOING AND FUTURE INITIATIVES				
No.	Partner	Initiative	Contact	
1.	UNHCR	From 25 November to 10 December, UNHCR will be running a 16 Days of Activism campaign. This is an annual campaign meant to raise awareness in respect to gender-based violence. In Poland annual events are also run by Fundacja Autonomia. Partners interested in participating – either through UNHCR or independently are invited to get in contact.	Tai	Sayarath sayarath@unhcr.org
2	UNHCR	In November, UNHCR will be running a participatory assessment in various locations in Poland – including in Krakow. The participatory assessment is an annual exercise which brings together refugees from different groups and age ranges for group discussions aimed at better understanding the needs and problems they face. Organizations interested in participating may express interest.	Francois	Kernin kernin@unhcr.org
3.	VOICE Amplified	VOICE Amplified is able to offer assistance to partners in navigating the RRP process. VOICE Amplified also has two PSEA staff in Krakow and can offer additional PSEA workshops. Interested partners may contact VOICE Amplified for more information	Tetiana	Herasymova tetiana@voiceamplified.org
4.	Save the Children International	Save the Children is still trying to meet its cash assistance target. Partners who have identified families that have not yet received cash assistance from other non-governmental organizations are encouraged to get in contact.	Ghulam Rahjoe	Sakhi- Ghulam.sakhi-rahjoe@savethechildren.org
5.	I Love Debniki Foundation	Spots for children remain open in workshops and after school activities. Partners interested in learning more are encouraged to get in contact.	Olga	Piasecka Niec olga@kochamdebniki.pl

	UNICEF	In partnership with the city of Krakow UNICEF has established several centers providing different services to children with disabilities. If any partners have identified a child case with disabilities, they are invited to get in contact to explore the possibility of referrals to services.	Polat Kizildag pkizildag@unicef.org
--	--------	---	--