

Podkarpackie Coordination Group (PCG)

Date: Wednesday 25th January 2023

Time: 11:00am – 1:00pm

Venue: Governor's Office City of Rzeszow

General Discussion Highlights:

Opening Remarks by Representative of the Voivode of Podkarpackie	
<p>Bogdan Mazur, Director Department of Security and Crisis Management – Podkarpackie Voivodeship</p> <p>No significant changes on refugee situation since last PCG meeting in December. Data from the day of the meeting presents about 24,000 movements at the PL-UA border - 12,780 arrivals and 11,909 departures. The current border traffic looks similar to before the outbreak of the conflict. A large number of current arrivals in Poland are visiting family or business purposes - despite the ongoing war. The current single reception point financed by the Voivode funds is located at the Przemyśl Train Station and is dedicated to people affected by the war effort who are coming to Poland for the first time. Daily arrivals at the train station are about two thousand, but only a small percentage need international protection and assistance. He stressed that the reception point assistance is meant to support those persons fleeing from the conflict. Highlights that the assistance provided at the reception point is not always in line with real needs and there is some misunderstanding of the current refugee support mechanisms. Request that humanitarian organizations, including UN agencies like UNHCR, which operate at the reception point, to strengthen consultation with the Voivodship Office and representatives of the City Office in Przemyśl on any actions taken.</p> <p>Question by participant - Exactly what mistakes are made by organizations operating in the reception area? Perhaps specific examples would help us better understand the topic? Response - An example, some humanitarian actors request continuous availability of a medical post at the Train Station in Przemyśl but medical provision is strictly regulated by laws. At present, any person whose health and life is at risk should receive assistance at the nearest emergency medical facility location about 2-3 minutes away (not at train station). Only 1-2 cases per week are requiring urgent medical care thus no need for medical post at train station. Voivode asks organizations to consult any ideas/activities prior with them to ensure compliance.</p>	
Protection Overview	Action Points
<p>Richard Sollom – Senior Protection Officer – UNHCR</p> <p>Overview of population statistics in Podkarpackie and protection risks using an Age, Gender and Diversity lens, using various data sources including PESEL registration, border movements, employment figures, school enrollment, UNHCR protection monitoring and focus group discussions. Note that findings are only preliminary and stated risks are self-reported.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR CO – internally reviewing slides before sharing on Operational Data Portal.
Przemyśl Situation Update - Humanitarian Aid Center in Przemyśl (CPH)	Action Points
<p>Maciej Maruszak – Director of Podkarpackie Branch of PCK</p> <p>The situation of the Tesco humanitarian aid center in Przemyśl was presented. Currently quite different from at the beginning of the conflict in Ukraine. The center is now offering accommodation for up to 48 hours for people who have crossed the Ukrainian-Polish border for the first time. The number of people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All actors – provide listing of proposed support and/or services you contribute to Bilana to UNHCR, Bryant by 30 Feb (or earliest possible date)

<p>staying at the center has decreased significantly, with about 1,000 people in March 2022, 800 in July, and now within the range of 60 to 100 people (or less). There are days when the center has only a dozen people, while the number of staff is 25-35. The PCK is beginning steps to close the Tesco facility, while in parallel coordinating with the city of Przemyśl to open a new shelter on Bilana Street (renovated by CORE/UNHCR). Assistance provision will be different however at Bilana – it will not use the same model of Tesco – as space is limited and primarily focused on accommodation. Not all actors at Tesco will be able to be present at Bilana. PCK will likely administer/manage the new facility, but the final vision of how this is to work and development of regulations are still being determined in consultation with the municipality.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNCHR – to consolidate proposed support/activities from actors and provide listing to Municipality of Rzeszow for review.
<p>Bryant Castro – IA Coordination Officer – UNHCR A recent meeting with the authorities of the city of Przemyśl, Polish Red Cross and other humanitarian organizations working in the area took place on 23 January to discuss activities at the train station, Tesco Center status and opening of the new shelter, Bilana. Outcomes of the meeting were presented: (1) establishing a localized (potentially every two weeks) coordination meetings co-facilitated by the City of Przemyśl and UNHCR to take place on 15 Feb (updated), (2) PCK to share the closing and transition plan for Tesco Center and opening of Bilana (to be shared at meeting on 15 Feb), (3) participants and other PCG members to provide list of proposed activities/services can offer in Bilana and (4) Municipality of Rzeszow to provide inputs into draft Train Station Contingency Response plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR – to draft agenda, prepare secretariat support for 15 Feb meeting. • Municipality of Rzeszow/PCK – to share the transition plan for Tesco/Bilana on the 15 Feb meeting (updated). • Proposed activities/services – see above section by PCK. • Municipality of Rzeszow – to provide inputs to contingency plan by 6 Feb.
<p>All Hands and Hearts - Presentation</p>	<p>Action Points</p>
<p>Aleksandra Białkowska – Community Coordinator – All Hands and Hearts The mission statement, background and Polish activities of All Hands and Hearts in the Subcarpathian province were presented. The main tasks carried out are reconstruction and repair of shelters, and improvement of refugees' living conditions and community engagement (NFI support) - in Boratyn, Radymno, Medyka, Przemyśl and Jaroslaw.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NTR
<p>PSAR Update and Discussion on Education</p>	<p>Action Points</p>
<p>Jan Marković - Podkarpackie Stowarzyszenie dla Aktywnych Rodzin (PSAR) Presentation on project run by the PSAR Foundation, "School That Connects", explained methodology and showcases statistics on number of participating persons and goals of the project:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving teachers' competences in the field of work in a multicultural environment • Developing children's emotional competences, conflict resolution skills • Improving communication between parents, teachers and children 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSAR- to provide link for informative video that explains project and outputs to UNHCR, Bryant. • UNHCR - to share link with PCG members.

<p>Based on project activities, main challenges were then highlighted for each relationship in education sphere including between refugee students-teacher, refugee student-parent, refugee student-Polish students, and between parent-teacher.</p>	
<p>Other Partners Updates</p>	<p>Action Points</p>
<p>Neil Midgley, Head of Communication – UNITATEM: Unitatem is currently facing serious financial problems that are affecting ability to continue to sustain shelters operations. Due to lack of donor funding, if this situation continues, will have to close refugee shelters at the end of March (including newly renovated). Unitatem would ask any organizations that can help in this difficult situation to assist.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR – to transmit funding need to Inter-Agency Warsaw for further dissemination.
<p>Jack Haffner, Director of Programs, CORE: Urgent need for a platform to facilitate improved information exchange and coordination between local shelter managers, especially focused on Polish speaking staff.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR and IOM – already agreed to co-facilitate initial site/shelter manager forum. Details on modality and dates TBD.
<p>Maciek Staszewski, ArtCity: As we will soon mark the first anniversary of the outbreak of war in Ukraine, ArtCity plans to initiate several thematic actions to remind the community of the consequence of war and the suffering of people on the 24 February. Events will include symbolic actions, concerts and discussion panels with invited organizations.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NTR
<p>Voice Amplified: Planning to organize a series of “Humanitarian Aid School” training session in partnership with CORE on humanitarian aid in mid-February for volunteers and responders. Among the main topics of the session will be standards for providing humanitarian aid, PFA, GBV, principles, etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voice – to provide UNHCR, Bryant with project description and registration link. UNHCR to share with PCG members.
<p>Monika Miłowska, Culturelab - Mapuj Pomoc: We will soon launch additional functionality on the service mapping - mapujpomoc.pl portal. It will allow users to filter service mapping needs and print out in PDF document format a list of services based on selections (e.g., for your location). This will improve the user interface and useability and help both refugees and responders acquire relevant information on available services, contact details, locations etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NTR
<p>Maciej Maruszak, Director of Podkaprackie Branch of PCK: Recently encountered (again) the problem of unknown trucks, lorries and buses approaching the Tesco humanitarian center, whose drivers offering to transport refugees in an unknown direction. On attempting to identify the drivers or ask if they are registered with authorities, the individuals drove away.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All partners – request to be vigilant of ongoing risk and inform authorities as relevant if witness.

PCK has reported the matter to the police along with the registration numbers of the vehicles and asking other organization to be alert to risk.					
Inter-Agency Coordination Update					
Bryant Castro – IA Coordination Officer – UNHCR Master Link to Access Podkarpackie Coordination Information is updated – please use the below link to access Podkarpackie inter-agency coordination documents and other voivodes, including 3W, Contact Lists, Shelter Listings, Referral Pathways, etc. You may have also received an email with the access link. Please contact Bryant if you have any trouble opening. Link: Inter-Agency Public				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All partners - using the master link, please review and update contact list, 3W and Contingency Activities for Q1 (Jan-March) 2023, update by 10 Feb. 	
Participants:					
Organization	Name	Surname	Organization	Name	Surname
ACF	Iliannis	Antrias	PUI	Thomas	Nobre
All Hands and Hearts	Ana	Martinez Pardo	Save the Children	Ghulam Sakhi	Rahjoe
All Hands and Hearts	Aleksandra	Białkowska	Save the Children	Ali	Kaya
Artcity	Maciek	Staszewski	Save the Children	Filip	Bujnowski
CORE	Jack	Haffner	Save the Children	Karina	Rybchanivska
CORE	Izabela	Napiórkowski	Scouts (ZHP)	Mariusz	Bezdietny
Culturelab - mapujpomoc	Monika	Miłowska	Soleterre	Lisa	Ranzenigo
DRC	Francesca	Colombi	Soleterre	Anna	Kyriienko
DRC	Eleonore	Dupre	Ukrainian House	Maryna	Leskiw
DRC	Natalia	Roumelioti	UNHCR	Jose Luis	Hernandez
Folkowisko	Zack?	Holmes	UNHCR	Adriana	Negry
Folkowisko	Aleksander	Sola	UNHCR	Tomasz	Pajda
Folkowisko	Marcin	Piotrowski	UNHCR	Rick	Sollom
Fundacja Q	Anna	Szlachetka	UNHCR	Shqelkim	Shehu
Fundacja Q	Sana	Vitvitska	UNHCR	Iryna	Kostiuk
HOPE Foundation	Jacek	Wiarski	UNHCR	Agnieszka	Kubiak
IOM	Magdalena	Kuśka	UNICEF	Jakub	Buż
IOM	Anna	Verbeke	UNICEF	Polat	Kizildag
Medair	Alex	Cameron	UNITATEM	Neil	Midgley
Oxfam	Lisa	Scharinger	UNITATEM	Katarzyna	Kubas
Oxfam	Kinga	Matłag	UNITATEM	Anna	Przednowek
PCK	Maciej	Maruszak	Voice Amplified	Helene	Michalak
PCK	Emilia	Łabędzka	Voice Amplified	Tetiana	Herasymova

PCK	Alicja	Bobola	Voivodship Office	Anna	Dziedzic
PRO-FIL	Karolina	Panda	Voivodship Office	Małgorzata	Dankowska
PRO-FIL	Monika	Malisiewicz	City of Rzeszów	Kamil	Czyż
Project HOPE	Lucia	Uscategvi	Voivodship Office	Bogdan	Mazur
PSAR	Jan	Marković			
PSAR	Barbara	Michalik			
PUI	Lizzie	Lawrence			

Contact: Bryant Castro, UNHCR Inter-Agency Coordination Officer, castro@unhcr.org

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