# Coordination meeting MINUTES

Date: 16.01.2023 (Monday)  
Time: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
Place: Lublin Voivodship Office in Lublin, column room

## The main points of the agenda

### Introduction and opening remarks

**Boleslaw Gzik - Deputy Governor of The Lubelskie Province**
- The meeting was opened by Deputy Governor of The Lubelskie Province Boleslaw Gzik. During the speech, he referred to the purpose of the Lublin Coordination Group and the tasks and challenges facing the LGK in 2023.
- The situation related to the influx of refugees into the Lublin Province is stable at the moment. At the border crossings points (Dorohusk, Zosin, Dolhobyczow, Hrebenne) information points run by LUW are present.
- Three reception points are active near the border crossings: Chelm, Hrubieszow, Tomaszow Lubelski. At the moment, reception points receive several people per day. As of 16.01.2023, there is no person in Tomaszow Lubelski, 8 people in Hrubieszow, 5 people in Chelm.
- Approximately 60% of places occupied in collective shelters in Lublin Voivoidship. 40% available for immediate reception of refugees.

**Felicia Byrne – UNHCR**
- We are very happy to continue this coordination forum in 2023, started in 2022 under the leadership of the Voivoidship Office.
- It is important to make sure that we will constantly share information to have a coherent understanding of the situation, identify gaps which may result from the evolving funding funds landscape, as well as identify potential opportunities with different donors.

### Review of the draft amendment to the Law on Assistance to Citizens of Ukraine in Connection with the Armed Conflict on the Territory of Ukraine

**Yulian Hofman – The Rule of Law Institute**
- We expect the amendment to the law to be implemented in its current form. The law has passed the parliament and the senate with cosmetic changes. It is currently awaiting the president’s signature.
- The catalog of people who qualify for the special law will be clarified. The Law on Assistance to Citizens of Ukraine in Connection with the Armed Conflict on the Territory of Ukraine stipulates that citizen of Ukraine who came to Poland after February 24, 2022 are eligible for the activities covered by the act. It does not precise the route or direction from which they came to Poland. The second group of people who qualify for the act are spouses of Ukrainian citizens who do...
not have Ukrainian citizenship. The third group is Ukrainian citizens and their family members, as long as that Ukrainian citizen has a Polish Card.

- Exclusions stating who is ineligible under the Act: a citizen of Ukraine who has temporary residence in Poland, permanent residence, international protection, a person who has temporary protection in a country other than Poland. The law also provides the possibility of depriving a person who has temporary protection in another country before the law enters into force.

- 30 days to apply for a PESEL number. At the same time, the law does not provide for consequences for failing to meet this deadline.

- As of today, the law foresees the loss of UKR status when leaving the country for more than a month. The legislator changes the factor using the term "for a period of 30 days" and specifies 4 additional prerequisites, which, in addition to the departure itself, give the possibility to revoke the UKR status. First: Departure for more than 30 days. Second: the foreigner has one of the previously mentioned residence titles (temporary residence, permanent residence, residence of a long-term EU resident) or international protection. Third: The person will submit or declare an intention to submit an application for international protection. Fourth: The person has temporary protection in another country.

- UKR status will be lost when leaving Poland for more than 30 days at one time. If a person has left several times a month for a shorter interval, the rule of leaving for more than 30 days does not apply to him/her.

- There is a procedure for restoring the status of UKR, if such a person had UKR status in the past and lost it. It is necessary to apply to the city or municipal authorities and after going through the appropriate path, the status can be restored. Restoration of the status is decided by the decision of the respective office.

- There are doubts as to whether the solution to the issue of accommodation participation is in accordance with European Union law (Directive of 2001 and Executive Decision of 04.03.2022.), which states that a person who has temporary protection in any country of the European Union must receive free accommodation, food and medical care.

- The cost-sharing mechanism could come into effect in April (50%) and June (75%), or from March (50%) and May (75%), if amendments to extend the deadline are not implemented.

- The 40+ program does not change in the context of the amendment to the law.

- For the first 120 days, a person who enters Poland can enjoy free lodging and meals at points of collective accommodation or with a private person (subsidized stay). The time is calculated from the first day of entry to Poland after February 24.

- After 120 days, according to the decision of the official, who, guided by humanitarian considerations, decides whether the person is able to contribute to the cost of living. If the decision is positive, the person will participate in the cost of living at 50%, in an amount not exceeding 40 PLN/day. The 50% is the maximum.

- For those who are in Poland for more than 180 days, 75% cost of participation is taken, but in an amount not to exceed PLN 60/day.
- The law provides a very broad catalog of exclusions (Article 17 C): persons with a disability certificate or a disability degree, persons over 60 years of age for women and 65 years of age for men, pregnant women and persons raising a child up to 12 months of age, persons who are raising three or more children on their own, persons under 18 years of age, persons in a difficult life situation making it impossible to participate in the cost of living, persons caring for persons with disabilities, a temporary guardian appointed for a minor.

- The extension of the legality of stay for those who arrived in Poland before February 24, 2022 and held a visa, in the event of expiration of the document, is extended until August 24, 2023.

- Repeal of crisis shield provisions on extending the legality of foreigners' stay related to an epidemiological emergency. The provisions on automatic extension of the legality of stay of foreigners related to the coronavirus pandemic under an amendment to the law will be revoked as of August 24, 2023.

- A person who holds a Ukrainian driver's license and has been in Poland for more than 185 days will not have to exchange his or her license for a Polish one until the end of 2023.

- The legal act assumes as of today (before the amendment) that Ukrainian citizens who have been in Poland for more than 9 months (entry after February 24, 2022) can apply for temporary residence for 3 years. The amendment to the law removes this provision, which means that this "special" type of temporary residence will not exist, and applications submitted under this procedure before the amendment came into force will be left unprocessed.

- As a general rule, beneficiaries of temporary protection are not allowed to submit applications for temporary residence (Article 99 of the Law on Foreigners). As of April 2023, this prohibition will not apply in a situation where an application is submitted by a Ukrainian citizen having temporary protection in Poland, as long as the application is related to work in Poland, work in professions requiring high qualifications, or business activity in Poland. Applications that are submitted before April will be left without consideration.

Contingency planning for a potential influx of refugees in Lublin Voivodeship

Andzej Osipowski - The Lubelskie Province Governor's Office

- As of June 2022, the number of available places in the Lublin Voivodeship in collective shelters is about 7000 places, of which the average use is about 5000 thousand places.

- The activation of places of collective shelters is carried out on the basis of the decision of the Lublin Voivode. The organization of places of accommodation is carried out by counties and the municipalities of Lublin Voivodeship. In total, there are 25 entities that carry out this task on the basis of the decision of the Lubelskie Governor.

- The 2,000 currently unused places are treated as a first buffer against a potential influx of refugees.

- 1500 additional places that can be activated within 24 hours available at the municipal level.

- In the event of an additional need, within 48 hours an additional 9,500 places of accommodation can be organized in the facilities of Volunteer Fire Departments, which have been verified by the State Fire Service and SANEPID.
- LUW estimates that it has about 4.5 places in large-scale facilities, which can also be activated within 48 hours.
- If the numbers indicated above are insufficient, LUW could develop 8,300 places of accommodation in public places like sanatoriums and dormitories within 7 days. However, this requires more complex administrative procedures.
- The resources of the Lublin Voivodeship are estimated at about 30,000 places of collective accommodation for refugees.
- LUW has a reserve of 1,500 beds at reception points.
- At peak (March-April), the maximum use of collective accommodations was about 11 thousand.

### UNHCR Protection Sector updates

**Felicia Byrne - UNHCR**

Protection monitoring findings

- Protection monitoring is structured interview focused on profiles and needs of refugees. UNHCR began the process on 26th of July 2022. More than 24,000 individuals have been interviewed in Poland till December 2022 (3303 individuals in Lubelskie).
- The vast majority are woman (90%). Top 5 oblasts where refugee came from: Kiev (14%), Volyn (11%), Kharkiv (11%), Dnipro (8%), Lviv (5%).
- Household size: 1 person (25%), 2 or more persons (75%).
- 99.5% of respondents reported having secondary, technical, vocational or university degree, including doctoral degrees.
- 22.4% of respondents have at least one family member with serious medical condition
- 21% of households’ members are at risk of disability.
- Intention of return to Ukraine in next 3 months: No (68%), I do not now (19%), Yes (13%). If yes, for how long? Temporarily (52%), Permanently (32%), I do not know (17%).
- Top 5 needs: material assistance, no need, employment, medical treatment, information about services.
- What would you like to receive more information about? Financial assistance (61%), Job opportunities (36%), Medical care (33%), Legal status (31%), None (20%).
- How do you prefer to receive information? Social media and messaging apps (61%), phone (26%), in person (24%), websites (22%), friends/families (20%).

Protection sector recommendations

- Protection sector recommendations is a document issued by national Protection Sector which provide technical advice and focus on 11 areas. Document was published in December followed up broad consultations with different protection partners and refugees. Primary it recognizes successful implementation of temporary protection directive in Poland. Full document will be attached to minutes. Recommendations: Sporadic returns, access to territory and withdrawal of status; Documentation; Eligibility for temporary protection and effective remedy; Third
country nationals in need of international protection; Support for persons with disabilities; Access to health services, including mental health, for survivors of violence; Provision of accommodation and financial support for host families; Access to information, community engagement and accountability of aid providers; Effective access to the labor market; Protection against abuse, exploitation and trafficking; Protection of children.

- For more information please go to the detailed recommendations available in Polish and English: https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/97649

Service mapping
- Service mapping is an online document of up to date services and activities directed to refugees.
- The document is continuously updated by UNHCR and the organizations and services listed were last updated in January 2023. It is available in Polish, Ukrainian and English. If any of NGO or institution would like to add something or make any changes, please contact UNHCR in Lublin.
- The link can be used by partners and institutions and NGOs working with refugees or vulnerable populations to refer individuals to the required services.

UNICEF Child Protection and Education sectors updates

**Joud Munwar - UNICEF**

Child Protection
- National Child Protection Group is co-led by UNICEF, UNHCR and FDDS. Group meets once a month. Group is coordinating all child protection activities directed to refugees. Starting from January 2023 CPWG meetings will be joined with Protection sector and GBVWG meetings.
- Child protection management system for all children at risk is being developed by CPWG.
  - Steps planned (Currently CPWG is on the step one)
    - Quality Assessment Framework – currently being conducted by Save the Children
    - Drafting national CPCM SoPs and referral pathways.
    - Workshop with all stakeholders to validate and endorse the SoPs
    - Training of social/case workers, law enforcement, local government representatives on the SoPs
  - Workflow (simplified SOP and referral pathways) for children in institutions/UASC – guidance for all involved NGOs and institutions

**Hande Dilaver - UNICEF**

Education
- It is very important for the Education Working Group to ensure access to quality and inclusive education for all children, in accordance with existing laws and government policies.
- In general, there are more than 600,00 school-age children (data as of September 2022).
- Enrollment figures for Ukrainian children in school are relatively low and are gradually decreasing month by month. Total number of Ukrainian children (3-19) in Polish education system – 184,179 (30.6%). Total number of Ukrainian children (3-19) not in Polish education system – 416,069 (69.4%). 17% children not enrolled to schools.
- There is a big number of Ukrainian children attending Ukrainian online school but unfortunately there is no up to date data on this subject.
- Main reasons for not attending school: language barrier, space in schools, attending online classes, lack of inclusive school, plans of moving out of Poland.
- Plans for 2023: system strengthening, teachers training, language skills in formal and non formal education for children and families, social cohesion, vocational skills, social integration
- Access to data is a challenge (there is no up to date data on enrollment).
- UNICEF is planning sector needs assessment which will include needs in reception centers, collective centers but also in local communities.
- Harmonized sector messaging in order to provide correct and coordinated information is one of priorities.
- Continue learning campaign is planned for 2023 together with Ministry of Education and Science.

AOB

- The U.S. Embassy in Warsaw has launched a call for proposals for NGOs, including activities directed to refugees. Projects can be submitted until February 26, 2023. Details: Dofinansowanie w postaci grantów na wsparcie programów wspierających potrzeby społeczności marginalizowanych w Polsce - Ambasada i Konsulat USA w Polsce (usembassy.gov)
- Janów Lubelski and Janów Poviat is a place with a relatively low offer of activities and services aimed at refugees compared to those in collective shelters. The Lublin Voivodship Office encourages non-governmental organizations to submit initiatives and services that can be provided to refugees residing in Janów Lubelski and Janów County.
- The Union of Poles of the City of Kyiv is seeking support and/or funding opportunities for the stay of a group of about 50 children during the summer holiday season in Poland. The Voivodship Office encourages entities participating in the LCG to submit possibilities of providing stay and/or meals for mentioned above group of children.

Action points

- Submit possible support / organization of activities aimed at refugees in Janow Lubelski and Janow district. Submissions should be addressed to Ms. Renata Rojek: tel. 883849633, e-mail: rrojek@lublin.uw.gov.pl.
- Submit possibilities of organizing or subsidizing accommodation and meals for a group of about 50 children under the care of the Union of Poles of Kyiv during the holiday period in Poland. Please direct applications to Ms. Renata Rojek: kom. 883849633, e-mail: rrojek@lublin.uw.gov.pl
Contact between the Lubelskie Voivodship Office in Lublin and UNICEF to discuss educational needs, especially of children in places of collective accommodation.

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<td>Volunteer Center in Lublinie</td>
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