



Małopolska Coordination Group Meeting
Meeting Minutes – 26 January 2023

Meeting subject:	Małopolska Coordination Group Meeting
Time & location:	9 am – UNHCR Krakow Sub-Office
Chaired by:	UNHCR; Open Krakow Coalition
Minutes prepared by:	UNHCR
Participants:	Małopolski Urząd Wojewódzki; FEELBEAR sp.z.oo; Fundacja Instytut Polska-Ukraina; Fundacja Kocham Debniki; Fundacja Pallium for Ukraine; Fundacja Understanding; IB Polska; IOM; Malopolski Fundusz Ekonomii Społecznej; NGO Forum/PAH; OWiM; Stowarzyszenie Mudita; UNHCR; UNICEF; Voice Amplified; Wolno Nam; Zero Camps; 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 refugee and Ukrainian-led organizations2) Updates from the Voivodeship3) Presentation on NGO Forum4) Presentation of Protection Monitoring Report (UNHCR)5) AOB
AGENDA POINT	DISCUSSION
Introduction and update on points from last meeting	<p>Participants were welcomed to the eleventh Małopolska Coordination Group meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• IB Polska provided updates about recent activities. During children’s winter vacation IB Polska will be arranging activities for children in Malopolska. More information is available on the organization’s website. In addition, NGO partners that are not

	<p>yet part of the Open Krakow Coalition are invited to reach out to Izabela Kucmin-Bemelmans (ukraina.ibpolska@gmail.com) to be added to the contact list.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR provided updates about recent activities. Implementation of the targeted cash assistance program for refugees is ongoing in several locations - including Krakow – and there remains the possibility for partners to make referrals. If participants are interested in learning more about the targeted criteria or the process for referring cases they can reach out to UNHCR. Another information session can also be organized. On 16 January UNHCR also began activities at the Open Place Krakow community center, located at Życzkowskiego 19 street. Weekly schedules and more information can be found on the Center’s Facebook page at the following link: https://www.facebook.com/people/Miejsce-Otwarte-Centrum-Integracji-Mi%C4%99dzykulturowej-Krakow/100089265855735/
Agenda point 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundacja Pallium for Ukraine presented the Foundation’s activities. The Foundation was officially registered in December; however, it has been active as a volunteer initiative since February 2022. The Foundation functions as a network throughout Poland, which at the current moment includes providing support to 10 families in Krakow. The Foundation’s main activities encompass support for refugees with chronic or severe illnesses. This includes medical evacuations from Ukraine for those in unsafe locations, but also for those in locations where the electricity supply is not guaranteed. In Poland, the Foundation assists in solving diverse problems, including assistance with accommodation, help with medical appointments, equipment and palliative care, advocacy for those undergoing medical care, and integration activities for caretakers who often cannot leave the house for long periods of time or work. The majority of those helped are children and young adults, although the organization has no limit on the age of those assisted. Needs are also broad and include things such as financial support, as state subsidies are often not large enough to cover complex medical and hygienic needs. There is also a further ongoing need for professional medical caretakers. Support needs to be provided to such an extent that allows caretakers to occasionally leave home.
Agenda point 2	<p>The Representative of the Voivode provided updates on recent trends and developments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The situation at the Poland-Ukraine border remains stable. Daily crossings into Poland and into Ukraine remain about equal. For example, on 17 January there were about 45,000 total border crossings. Of these, about 22,500 were people entering Poland and about 22,500 were people leaving Poland for Ukraine. There are currently no indications that the situation is critical. • In regards to available accommodation in the Malopolskie Voivodeship, there are currently 25,000 beds in the Voivodeship’s database. Of these, 16,000 are taken and 9,000 remain available. In addition, there are a further 3,000 contingency places

	<p>that can be made available at short notice should the need arise. The accommodation in Krakow city remains difficult, and most available places are in other parts of Malopolska. As such, the Voivodeship is still encouraging refugees to consider accommodation options outside of the city.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the request of the Minister of the Interior, the Voivodeship is assisting in updating the Help for Ukrainians website. Participants were invited to send an email to the Voivode’s representative outlining their activities by 27 January. • The Representative shared information about grants for Polish NGOs available through the Interreg program. More information is available at the following link: https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrIjoiaMWU3NjkzYmEtNDYzMC00M2EyLTkwMjctMGIwZTA0MTQwMjU5IiwidCI6ImU1Yz-M3OTgxLTY2NjQtNDEzNC04YTBjLTY1NDNkMmFmODBiZSIsImMiOjh9&pageName=ReportSectionb9333061a0a2e93930ea
Agenda point 3	<p>The Coordinator of the National NGO Forum “Razem” presented about the Forum and its activities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Razem” is an NGO forum for local and international organizations active in the migration and integration space in Poland to come together and exchange opinions. The forum began in March 2022 as a space to exchange information on the situation of Ukrainian refugees. However, focus has shifted to considering wider issues concerning migration in Poland, the longer-term development of a modality to assist migrants – including forced migrants - and how the Forum can be involved in the development of this system. At the current time, about 170 organizations are involved. • The Forum operates through a modality of information shared on a webpage and through a newsletter, as well as online meetings every two weeks. During the meetings, participants discuss experiences and share new observations, including those that may become trends. All forum members are welcome to participate in these meetings. On the website, information is share - including that about UNHCR sector meetings, and about funding opportunities and applications. The Forum’s website can be found at the following link: https://www.forumrazem.org.pl/pl • The Forum meeting modality has three concrete areas in which it can serve as a benefit to participants: information sharing as a result of participants understanding of what is happening on the ground; coordination, as a space where organizations can meet each other and coordinate with one another; capacity and community building in regards to helping organizations better understand their needs and sharing of expertise among organizations. • The Forum also maintains a capacity calendar tool to which meetings and organization needs can be added.
Agenda point 4	

	<p>UNHCR presented on the first Protection Monitoring Brief, based on interviews with refugees conducted between June and August 2022:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Brief on which the presentation was based is available at the following link: https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/97143 • Wolno Nam Foundation asked if participants were asked questions about integration in schools • UNHCR responded that the previous brief was based on information collected before the start of the current school year. More information about this topic should be included in the next brief. In addition, there also remain a large number of children not yet enrolled in Polish schools. The question remains whether this is by choice, or due to the fact that parents were not able to find spots.
<p>AOB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zero Camps Foundation shared about the Foundation and its activities. The Foundation has been functioning since 19 March, mainly on projects to ensure food and accommodation for refugees and helping in individual situations. The Foundation maintains a temporary accommodation point in which individuals without another place to stay can spend several nights. In addition, the Foundation has converted some office space into accommodation for Ukrainians, and now this serves as accommodation for over 100 individuals on different steps of their journeys to Poland. There is no time limit for how long individuals can stay. Some have been there for several nights, and others since April. Some families have children who began attending school in the city center and would not be able to afford apartment rent. Of the families in the accommodation site most are working, and some are contributing to the building rent. Finally, the Foundation has also opened a restaurant at Dietla 15 street, to serve as a community space and provide employment opportunities. The Foundation is currently looking for additional funds to maintain their accommodation sites. • Wolno Nam foundation shared that the Foundation is planning to open a new accommodation site in mid-February. The site will be located in the building of a former hotel. The Foundation will also continue its retreats for victims of torture and in March will have a training on free play principles for individuals working with children. Furthermore, the Foundation is still in the process of organizing a school for Ukrainian children, likely not before the 2023 – 2024 school year. • In response to the above, other participants noted that there are many requests for such a school for Ukrainian children. • The Blue Dot Coordinator from the Polish Scouts provided an update about movements and the overall situation at the Krakow train station. In the past two months there has been an increase in arrivals, but the situation is stable and the temporary accommodation site at the old train station is never full. It has been observed that the profile of new arrivals has

changed. Most new arrivals now come from occupied regions. The food distribution point for individuals travelling currently hands out about 1500 meals a day. During the holiday period this number was about 1000. Observations from the train station Blue Dot are similar. The profile of refugees seeking Blue Dot services has shifted, and Blue Dot staff have less children, and more elderly and disabled individuals using the Blue Dot services. Based on feedback, it also appears that multiple support sites for refugees remain open in Krakow and that refugees are aware of these sites and use their services. Finally, the Blue Dot hosted a celebration for Lego day, and about 400 individuals attended over the course of the weekend.

ACTION POINTS SUMMARY

No.	Action	Responsible	Deadline	Status (as of)
1.				
2				