



Regional Refugee Response
for the Ukraine Situation



Palanca Local Coordination Meeting

Meeting Minutes – 26 July 2023

1. Meeting Details

Date	26 July 2023
Time	12:00 – 13:00
Chair	Volokh Karina, UNHCR Snr. Field Assistant
Reporting	Derli Nicolae, ACTED
Email	volokh@unhcr.org; nicolae.derli@acted.org

2. Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Update on recent developments in Palanca Bus Station (PBS)
3. Activity updates from participants
4. AoB

3. Information collection and relevant links

Moldova operational data portal: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784>

Local Refugee Coordination operational data portal: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/search?>

4. Participants (Name, Position, Organization)

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| - Karina Volokh, UNHCR | - Karima Hammadi, ECHO Moldova |
| - Cristina Babin, INTERSOS | - Olga Costenco, IOM |
| - Igor Becciev, CDA | - Grigore Scraba, GSS |
| - Stela Satova, UNFPA | - Cristina Volcovschi, ACR |
| - Julie Verburg, ACTED | - Igor Calancea, IGSU |
| - Nicolae Derli, ACTED | |
| - Roman Lipadat, ACTED | |

5. Information collection and relevant links,



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Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/Actions
Discussion on the evacuation route from Odessa to Palanca and onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• IGSU asked international organizations to inform people in Ukraine about free transportation available from Palanca border to Chisinau and other location, as well to Romania. Beneficiaries are often not aware of this information and come to Moldova by paying for regular buses, and some are unable to evacuate due to financial problems. If they knew about this free transportation option, more people could benefit from PBS. There have been incidents where people from nearby areas paid a large amount of money to get only as far as the customs checkpoint, leaving them stranded until the evening before they could continue their journey. A possible solution to address this problem would be to have free transportation from the bus station in Odessa to customs or to Chisinau. At the moment, all other tent centers run by the IGSU have been closed, leaving only the one in Palanca operational.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UNHCR will communicate with UNHCR Ukraine to seek solutions for smooth evacuation and information sharing.



<p>Introduction</p> <p>Mrs. Karina Volokh, UNHCR Snr. Field Assistant, volokh@unhcr.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UNHCR shared the following points:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– On 12 July 2023, UNHCR Protection Unit visited Palanca BCP, Tudora BCP and PBS for monitoring the situation with asylum seekers and refugees at the borders and to speak with UNHCR partners.– On 12 July 2023, the Local Coordination Meeting was held by UNHCR at Palanca bus station. At the meeting were present: ACTED, INTERSOS, UNFPA, CDA, BLUE DOT, GSS Security and IOM. UNHCR welcomed all the present at the coordination meeting and started the meeting with recent updates taken place at PBS and with partners' activity updates.– On 18 July 2023, the Mobile Team visited a rural area of Palanca, as part of regular visits to several villages in Stefan Voda and Causeni districts. UNHCR and its partners INTERSOS and CDA offered MHPSS, legal assistance, TP information and registration, EU + Air Transfers and information on rights and services to women, men and elderly people aged between 20 and 65. The visit was attended by 17 people (1 man and 16 women) and two staff from the municipality. Among the main concerns raised by the refugees was the problem of documentation for TP. In response, CDA colleagues provided free counselling to the refugees and the social worker on the necessary documents. UNHCR and CDA assisted 3 people (1 man and 2 women) for a pre-registration of TP on the spot. In addition, CDA provided counselling to a woman on the documentation required to obtain Moldovan citizenship.– On 19 July 2023, the Local Coordination Meeting in Causeni was held by UNHCR at Causeni District Council. 25 people from different NGOs and 15 refugees participated. During the meeting, IGM briefed the participants on the latest updates on TP and answered questions from them. In addition, various problems faced by refugees in the employment market were discussed. It was agreed that UNDP will be in contact with other organisations to find a way to solve the gaps. The next meeting will be held in August.– On 19 July 2023, Admiratie SRL came to PBS and did disinfection works in the INTERSOS' containers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• UNDP will reach out to organizations in Causeni regarding employment issues of refugees.
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- On 21 July 2023, UNDSS visited PBS with the purpose of conducting and briefing UN personnel on the evacuation drill. UNDSS visited the evacuation site in Stefan Voda city together with staff from Blue Dot, CDA, IOM and UNFPA.
- UNHCR received 3 evacuations by GLORIA in the past two weeks with 60 people evacuated in total. All people benefited from the various services offered and had coffee/tea and some snacks.
 - 13 July 2023: 16 people
 - 17 July 2023: 14 people
 - 24 July 2023; 30 people
- On 25 July 2023, the Mobile Team visited Popeasca RAC. The visit was attended by 21 people (6 men and 15 women), the Manager of the RAC, and the Mayor of Popeasca village. Among the main concerns raised by the refugees was only the poor coverage of the internet. Some of them asked for English and Romanian language courses for a better integration and to search for a work. Moreover, after UNHCR informed them of the possibility of enrolling the children in school after receiving TP, most of them were interested in enrolling the children in Russian schools in Causeni or Stefan Voda. However, there is no school bus for the children. In response, UNHCR will contact the child protection unit and ACTED to try to find a solution and CDA colleagues provided free counselling to the refugees and registered 9 people for TP. In addition, CDA provided counselling to a woman on the documentation required to obtain Moldovan citizenship.
- On 25 July 2023, UNHCR met with the mayor of Popeasca and discussed the management of the RAC and difficulties they are facing. UNHCR identified some needs to be covered, which will be referred to other organizations to provide necessary things such as dryer, washing machine, oven, bottles of water for coolers, computer, and dishwasher.



Activity updates from participants

- **ACTED** shared that, in order to increase awareness about customs service, colleagues in Odessa have teamed up with colleagues from Moldova to create informative flyers. These flyers are now being distributed throughout the city of Odessa, aiming to inform people in Ukraine about the customs service available.
- **BLUE DOT** received and offered their services to 49 children and 46 adults at PBS during the last two weeks. The mobile team is ongoing, and they visited Ermoclia village on 22 July 2023 and Crocmaz village on 24 July 2023.
- **INTERSOS** has shared that there was no update. It provides MHPSS services, English courses, and assists people to access to IGM office through their case management. They work with individuals identified through the mobile team and continue to register people for Airlift Programme.
- **CDA** reported that in the last two weeks there have been 36 beneficiaries, mostly men looking for asylum, temporary protection, and assistance with documents. Some of them also asked for information on job opportunities and guidance on next steps.
- **GSS** suggested removing all the small tents from PBS, except for the one for information sharing since the tents were damaged during bad weather and strong winds. GSS is concerned about the possibility for these broken tents to be blown away by strong winds and possibly harm people around. There are no changes in their activity.
- **UNFPA** reported about their ongoing psychological support activities as well as the mobile team in several villages throughout Moldova. They noticed that the number of people has increased recently due to the events happening in Odessa and its region. According to the information provided by refugees, people leaving Ukraine now have an intention to stay in Moldova until the situation allows them to return to Ukraine.
- **IOM** reported that their transportation to Romania was ongoing as usual. For two weeks, 71 people left directly for Romania - 34 women, 26 children, and 16 men.
- **ACR** reported that there had been no changes. Services such as tea, coffee, and snacks are being provided, including during the month of August. In September there might be some changes.
- **IGSU** mentioned that there should be a way to take down the flags from PBS in order to ensure safety and not to damage them during strong winds.

- UNHCR works on removal of four small tents at PBS.



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• IsraAID - Nothing new, work continues as usual with the same colleagues. One colleague is consistently present at the station.	
6. Details of the Next Meeting		
Date	9 August 2023	
Time	12:00 – 13:00	
Venue	Palanca Bus Station	