

Podkarpackie Coordination Group (PCG)

Date: Thursday, 11 May 2023
Time: 11:00am – 1:00pm
Venue: Governor’s Office in Rzeszów

General Discussion Highlights:

Review of Previous Meeting Action Points	
<p><i>Discussion about previous meeting action point – “Voivodeship and Unitatem – on site visit to UNITATEM shelter to gain awareness on current financial needs situation”</i></p> <p>Bogdan Mazur, Director Department of Security and Crisis Management – Podkarpackie Voivodeship Office: Due to ongoing obligations, we were not able to visit the Unitatem shelter. We did, however, read the letter that the Foundation's board sent to the Prime Minister. The Foundation has repeatedly requested support in the form of funds for the accommodation of refugees based on the provisions of the speculative law on assistance to citizens of Ukraine. As of the time the letter reached us, all the requests directed by the Foundation had been approved, except for one, which was rejected due to formal reasons.</p> <p>Kamil Prusinowski – Unitatem Foundation: The foundation is currently facing financial difficulties. The external support we have received so far is running out. Maintaining the accommodation base requested by the Deputy Voivode and the Voivode will not be possible in the long term. We are slowly beginning to think about an exit strategy. Current funds allow us to continue operations for a period of 6-8 weeks. We are grateful for the Voivodship Office support offered so far, but we need much more funding, especially due to the lack of funding for the stay of those who remain in the centers for more than 120 days.</p> <p>Bogdan Mazur, Director Department of Security and Crisis Management – Podkarpackie Voivodeship Office: The Voivodship Office must act within the limits of established law. Unitatem Foundation on the other hand, needs support in the form of additional funds to maintain readiness, which we cannot do in the current state of the law. In addition, I would like to emphasize once again that our role as a voivodship is to carry out reception functions, not long-term residence of refugees.</p>	
Presentation – Voivodship actions in refugee response in Podkarpackie	Action Points
<p>Bogdan Mazur, Director Department of Security and Crisis Management – Podkarpackie Voivodeship Office:</p> <p>Due to the increased movement of refugees arriving from war-stricken Ukraine, reception points have been organized in the Podkarpackie region. Selected local government units were responsible for running and organizing these points on orders from the Podkarpackie Voivode. The task of the reception points was to receive and provide necessary assistance to people who decided to leave the territory of Ukraine because of hostilities in the areas where they lived.</p>	

<p>As of today, May 2023, the only operational reception point is located at the railway station in Przemyśl.</p> <p>In order to streamline and optimize the coordination of relocation of Ukrainian refugees, it was assumed that persons crossing the border with Poland through Podkarpackie Voivodeship would be directed to accommodation in Lubuskie, Łódzkie, Dolnośląskie, Opolskie, Śląskie, Małopolskie and Świętokrzyskie Voivodeships. Nevertheless, as the number of refugees increased, they were directed to accommodation sites throughout the country.</p> <p>At the medical points, assistance was provided to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12,437 people, including 3,126 children. • At the height of the influx, Medical Rescue Teams responded more than 40 times a day to incidents at the Polish border. • At the height of the influx, 168 people were hospitalized in Podkarpackie • The Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Health launched a patient transport train. <p>Funds transferred to help citizens of Ukraine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funds from the State Budget (general reserve): PLN 10,8 million PLN • Funds from the Aid Fund disbursed: 13,7 million PLN. <p>Question Magdalena Kuśka – IOM: Even though the Podkarpackie Voivodeship is only a transit voivodeship, are there special, government-designated centers within the voivodeship that receive targeted financial support for accommodation of refugees?</p> <p>Response Bogdan Mazur, Director Department of Security and Crisis Management – Podkarpackie Voivodeship Office: As I mentioned during the presentation, initially, refugees entering through Podkarpackie Voivodeship were directed to select voivodeships in the interior of Poland; however, over time we changed these assumptions and refugees were directed to all voivodeships in the country. Of course, there are many centers in our Voivodeship that benefit from the support of 40 PLN.</p>	
<p>PRO-FIL – Presentation of Program for 2023</p>	<p>Action Points</p>
<p>Tomasz Kobylański – PRO – FIL: Presentation of the planned 2023 activities carried out by the PRO-FIL Foundation. Main projects include:</p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Together for Ukraine! - Activities for professional activation and social integration of Ukrainians legally residing in Poland • SPYNKA - Support for Ukrainian mothers with young children, in cooperation with the Fundacja Rozwoju Dzieci im J. A. Komeńskiego and in partnership with UNICEF • Mobile Protection Hub - The project is financed with funds from UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, under the grant program of the Empowering Children Foundation. The main objective of the project is to provide free mobile psychological and psychotherapeutic assistance throughout Podkarpackie Voivodeship, through individual psychological consultations and psycho-educational group workshops. • Ukraine Response - The project is implemented in cooperation with the organization Amna. As part of the project, we are implementing integration workshops for children and young people in primary and secondary schools. The activities include classes, some of which target Ukrainian youth. The project will last until the end of the current school year. • Psychological support for employees and consultants from the Polish Scouting Association working in Blue Dots - Activities are being provided in Medyka, PKP Przemysł and TESCO Przemysł (until 27.03). 	
<p>Protection Updates</p>	<p>Action Points</p>
<p>Jose Luis Hernandez – UNHCR Child Protection Officer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended Temporary Protection: TPD status has been extended until the end of March 2024, and until the end of August 2024 for persons enrolled in school and for their caregivers. • PESEL UKR – UNHCR has observed incidents of PESEL UKR deactivation of refugees that go to Ukraine and return to Poland within 30 days. If deactivated, refugees have struggled to access rights in Poland. <p>Meeting participant: We observe that in recent months there is a problem of large amounts of garbage piled up and not collected in the area adjacent to the Medyka border crossing.</p> <p>Jose Luis Hernandez – UNHCR Child Protection Officer: I propose to take action in the form of sending a communication to the municipal authorities with our observations and a request to address the above problem</p>	
<p>Other Partner Updates</p>	<p>Action Points</p>
<p>Eleonore Dupre – DRC: As we mentioned at the previous PCG meeting, we are launching a series of activities in Podkarpackie Voivodeship.</p>	

<p>Among them are - Management of the UNHCR Protection Hub in Rzeszów, mobile outreach in collective shelters, MHPSS support and information provision. In the month of April, we started work at Blue Dots on behalf of UNHCR in Medyka and at the train station in Przemyśl.</p>	
<p>Filip Bujnowski - Save the Children:</p> <p>We currently operate in Education, MHPSS and Cash Assistance (cash vouchers). In terms of targeting for cash, we currently have about 200 - 300 households. We are also providing capacity building sessions in Warsaw and Przemyśl. Our current training courses include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safeguarding essentials training – Przemyśl, May 29 – 30 - Sphere Minimum Humanitarian Standards Three Day Workshop in Przemyśl, May 23 - 25 - Humanitarian Operations Program (HOP) <p>Trainings are available in Polish and English</p>	<p>UNHCR – To distribute to partners more detailed information after being sent by Save the Children</p>
<p>IA Coordination Update</p>	<p>Action Points</p>
<p>UNHCR IA Coordination Unit Update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poland - Contingency Planning Matrix – Q2 – to be updated by actors • Sharefile – Inter-Agency Public – to be updated by actors 3W and contact list • Communicating with Communities (CwC) Workshop – 1 June for humanitarian partners in Podkarpackie at the UNHCR Protection Hub. 	<p>UNHCR – To distribute to partners links to documents which needs to be updated</p>

Participants:					
Organization	Name	Surname	Organization	Name	Surname
ACF	Lucia	Ferri			
Caritas Rzeszów	Krystian	Snopkowski			
Caritas Rzeszów	Valentyna	Movchan			
City of Rzeszów	Kamil	Czyż			
CORE	Iza	Quinn			
CORE	Ewelina	Bosak			
DRC	Eleonore	Dupre			
DRC	Colette	Le Jeune			
Folkowisko	Volodymyr	Mychalyszyn			
Fundacja PRO-FIL	Tomasz	Kobyłański			
IOM	Magdalena	Kuśka			

Oxfam	Iewheniia	Ivanova
Project Hope	Natalia	Deisadze
PSAR	Ewelina	Podoba
PSAR	Jan	Marković
Save the Children	Filip	Bujnowski
Save the Children	Ghulamsakhi	Rahjoe
Save the Children	Robert	Attallah
Save the Children	Karina	Rybchanivska
SOLETERRE	Lisa	Ranzenigo
SOLETERRE	Anna	Kyriienko
Ukrainian House	Maryna	Leskiw
UNHCR	Jose Luis	Hernandez
UNHCR	Vira	Schvadchak
UNHCR	Tomasz	Pajda
UNICEF	Małgorzata	Kurkowska
UNICEF	Jakub	Buż
Unitatem	Kamil	Prusinowski
Unitatem	Claudia	Ostafijczuk- Wydrzyńska
Voivodship Office	Bogdan	Mazur
ZHP	Mariusz	Bezdziety

Contact:

Jose Luis Hernandez, UNHCR Child Protection Officer, hernandj@unhcr.org

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



Regional Refugee Response
for the Ukraine Situation

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