



Regional Refugee Response
for the Ukraine Situation



Basic Needs Working Group Meeting -31 July 2023	
Meeting Details	
Date	31. 07. 2023
Time	115:00 am
Chair and Co-chair	Andrea Cuisana, UNHCR Athina Nalmpanti, ACTED
Reporting	
Email	mdachacctr@unhcr.org - cuisana@unhcr.org – athina.nalmpanti@acted.org
Agenda	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MLSP Update on RACs Consolidation 2. Update on Winterization Survey 3. Winter Activities/Response for the BN WG 4. Update on Guideline for Rental Assistance 5. Partners Updates 6. AoB 	
Information collection and relevant links	
Participants	



Regional Refugee Response
for the Ukraine Situation



<i>Andrea Cuisana, UNHCR</i>	Mihai Rotaru, MLSP	<i>Natalia Stelea, UNHCR</i>
<i>Teodor Vicol, MLSP</i>	Emmanuel L. Otika, UNHCR	<i>James Whitaker, REACH</i>
<i>Katie Lampe, UNHCR</i>	Constanta Cravet, Concordia	<i>Ines Avrutovic, DRC</i>
<i>Mariana Leyva, ACTED</i>	<i>Natasa Omerovich, IOM</i>	Svetlana Cires, CRS
<i>Bianca Deleu, ACTED</i>	<i>Ibrahim Marte, IOM</i>	Irina Gradinaru, Acted
Selma ElKhawad IOM	Noor Bakhsh, UNICEF	<i>Cristian Slobodaniuc, WFP</i>
Gabriela Georgial, CRS	Teslu corina, REACH	Roman Schaver, LHI
Alma Talbacovic, DRC		

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p>Agenda point 1</p> <p>MLSP Update on RACs Consolidation</p>	<p>Basic needs WG chairperson Ms. Andrea Cuisana, the Sector-Lead for Basic Needs (UNHCR Shelter Officer), welcomed participants, after a quick presentation of all participants, thanked them for their presence, and proceeded with the agenda of the meeting.</p> <p>The first stage of the implementation of the RAC Consolidation Strategy has started, the group A centers have been visited.</p> <p>The Ministry has approved the working group, which includes MLSP, ANAS, National State Inspectorate, and international partners involved in the development and implementation of the strategy.</p> <p>Last week, the first MFT visits were initiated, beginning with Group A, as part of information dissemination campaign. During these visits, beneficiaries were engaged in discussions about the opportunities, benefits they can have as a result of the consolidation strategy, and the support they will receive from all stakeholders.</p> <p>The support is being accepted by some beneficiaries, while others are hesitant to leave the centers. With your support, I hope they can be guided and provided with the right information. The main purpose of this strategy is to help them integrate into society and provide them with all the necessary support. This week, the last visit to the center in group A will be conducted, and next week, visits to the centers in group B will be proceeded with.</p> <p>As part of the ongoing efforts to implement the RAC Consolidation Strategy, a comprehensive schedule of next visits to all centers has been prepared. The schedule includes the participation of focal points from all stakeholders, including representatives from MMPS, ANAS, UNHCR, protection partners (CDA, Intersos), and</p>	



	<p>Cash for Rent assistance partners (ACTED, CRS, IOM). These visits are aimed at conducting an information campaign for all beneficiaries.</p> <p>The primary objective of the information campaign is to engage with the beneficiaries, providing them with detailed information about the consolidation strategy, its benefits, and the support they can expect from various stakeholders during the process. By coordinating the involvement of all relevant parties, we aim to ensure a consistent and effective dissemination of information to the beneficiaries.</p> <p>As part of the monitoring process, we have developed guidelines with our partners. The protection partners will conduct visits and counseling, supported by the rental assistance program. ACTED will provide transportation support. The two working groups have developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to have a better response throughout the process. To ensure a proper response, we have allowed a two-month advance notice for beneficiaries to have sufficient time to relocate.</p> <p>IOM reaffirms support for community communication during the RAC Consolidation Strategy. Understanding human dynamics is crucial, and a holistic approach is necessary to address beneficiaries' multifaceted needs. IOM is fully prepared to provide necessary support for a successful strategy implementation and smooth transition for all parties involved.</p> <p>The protection partners are leading the MFT and conducting the screening process, counseling ensuring a good communication throughout the process. AAP WG will create appropriate communication materials and guidelines for implementation to share with BNWG partners.</p> <p>Partners recommend prioritizing information sharing across all sectors, including education, health, and livelihoods. UNHCR reaffirms its commitment to keeping all sectors informed and emphasizes the importance of protection partners in effectively disseminating the message to other stakeholders, considering the rapid progress of the process.</p> <p>MLSP adds that the beneficiaries are showing interest in offered programs and seeking more information on alternative programs. Informative visits, organized by MLSP and partners, will continue, and with joint efforts, we can proceed with the strategy and offer them the opportunity to integrate in community. Beneficiaries from centers nationwide have shown interest in applying to this program, including centers not covered in the current strategy, after rental assistance partners have shared fliers with the information with them.</p> <p>MLSP assures that refugees who do not wish to be reintegrated will be relocated to a different RAC. An intention survey will be conducted in RACs to gain a better understanding of their needs. Also, MLSP kindly</p>	<p>To continue to inform about the process and improve communication amongst partners.</p> <p>To proceed with visits as reflected in the strategy.</p>
--	--	--



<p>2. Update on Winterization Survey</p>	<p>requests that all assistance provided in the RACs be coordinated to prevent duplication and ensure that all refugees receive the necessary support.</p> <p>ACTED as site management support will provide the information regarding the partners that have a presence in the RACs and the services provided by their organization.</p> <p>Winterization survey</p> <p>The preparation for the Winterization is going on well, different actors will support the data collection. The preliminary data collected will be shared once collected in two weeks from now.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 595 Moldovan HH that host refugees will be interviewed in person • 560 refugees, the survey will be conducted via phone calls. <p>IOM adds that the data will be used through WFP database, cash enrollment. The report is expected to be ready within one month period and shared with BNWG. The objective is to identify the needs: <u>for</u> improvements of the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Moldovan HH that accommodates refugees.</u> • Refugees that live in private accommodation. <p>IOM adds the main challenge is not being able to able to work on the ground as UN organization in Transnistria, the survey will be conducted via phone.</p> <p>UNHCR completes that community intervention to improve the public building as part of the Winterization plan: schools, health facilities, community centers etc., used both by local community and refugees. The buildings are identified through local coordination forum (LCF) in coordination with local authorities.</p> <p>The matrix will be shared, and each organization will be requested to add the information and plans they have for the Winter response. This collaborative effort will help in coordinating our efforts and ensuring a comprehensive and effective response to the upcoming challenges.</p> <p>Important note: if any organization can support to pay the utility bills, please inform. The methodology regarding the process will be shared with partners once finalized.</p> <p>ACTED - The rental assistance guideline has been finalized and shared with MLSP. The eligible criteria and thresholds for transfer value (275 euros) have been standardized to ensure consistency and clarity in the implementation of the rental assistance program. It can be shared with BNWG.</p> <p>CRS Cash for rent is an ongoing activity.</p>	<p>To coordinate the assistance to the refugees to avoid duplication.</p> <p>ACTED to present the database of partners and services provided in RACs</p>
<p>3. Winter Activities/Response for the BN WG</p>	<p>Important note: if any organization can support to pay the utility bills, please inform. The methodology regarding the process will be shared with partners once finalized.</p> <p>ACTED - The rental assistance guideline has been finalized and shared with MLSP. The eligible criteria and thresholds for transfer value (275 euros) have been standardized to ensure consistency and clarity in the implementation of the rental assistance program. It can be shared with BNWG.</p> <p>CRS Cash for rent is an ongoing activity.</p>	<p>UNHCR share the matrix for the Winter response.</p> <p>UNHCR to share the methodology related to utility bills.</p>



<p>4. Update on Guideline for Rental Assistance</p> <p>5. Partners Updates</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small repairs ongoing activity for 6 months, about 100 units have been part of this plan. Can share the lessons learned. • As winter plan to support in cash 1200 HH local vulnerable community and refugees. <p>IOM - Have an ongoing small HH repairs, undefined yet the plans for the winter.</p> <p>The established Technical Group for rental assistance is suggested to focus on the housing program and repairs, as well as providing any additional support related to housing matters.</p> <p>MLSP requests to coordinate the support with renovations in the RACs, to ensure the center doesn't fall under the RAC consolidation strategy. For convenience, a list of RACs can be provided.</p> <p>WFP - conduct payments to 5508 HH families throughout the country, except Transnistria. Continue to provide hot meals in RACs with support of Help Age and ACTED. The new dashboard with updated information will be available soon:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many RACs are covered • What is the coverage in different area • How many refugees are hosted. <p>IOM - shares its concerns about the refugees' reluctance to apply for the rental assistance program. They suggest developing informational material to distribute in RACs, including successful case studies of beneficiaries who have applied for and benefited from the rental assistance program. This approach aims to ensure a successful awareness campaign and encourage more refugees to participate in the program.</p> <p>Informal RACs – the link to the matrix is open for one more week, share relevant information. Soon MFT monitoring visits will be organized.</p> <p>DRC – Service provision as medical doctor will resume in September in the Testemiteanu RAC. Raised security concerns in the FRISPA RACs.</p> <p>The Roma mediator is working on a program to ensure security presence in the RACs. Authorities are collaboratively addressing the issue to find a solution.</p> <p>Next meeting is scheduled for 4th September</p>	<p>To share the Rental assistance guideline with all partners</p> <p>CRS to share lessons learned – small repairs activity</p>
--	--	--