

ISCG Meeting

Date: 29 February 2024 • **Time:** 10h00-12h30 • **Venue:** UNHCR Conference Room
• **Participants:** RRP Sectors & Working Groups • **Language:** ENG

Participating Organizations:	<p><u>In-person:</u> UNHCR, Mapuj Pomoc, NGO Forum Razem, Save the Children, IOM, Norwegian Refugee Council</p> <p><u>Online:</u> UNHCR Lublin, UNHCR Warsaw, UNHCR Krakow, Right to Protection</p>
Chaired by:	Konrad Rahal Linkewitsch, UNHCR
Agenda	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update from the Refugee Coordinator - IA General Update 2. IM update – MSNA 3. Update on the Service Mapping – Mapuj Pomoc 4. NGO Forum Razem (Structure, Active Working Groups, Advocacy Strategy, linkages with Sector Coordination and ISCG) 5. Protection Update – UNHCR 6. Strategic updates from Sectors and WG 7. A.O.B/Action Points

Refugee Coordinator and IA General Update:

- UNHCR Representative and Refugee Coordinator for Poland Kevin Allen noted that his main objective is to raise money and showcase the work of smaller, grassroots NGOs, achieved through, for example, arranging meetings ambassadors for the NGOs to present their work.
- Thank you to Sector Coordinators and Working Groups for their work at the RRP 2024 Launch Event, that counted with over 270 participants.
- Questions regarding the amendment of the Special Act, like social benefits, whether refugee children be included in the Polish protection. Concerns with collective centers and housing, with a trend rising where centers are being closed, and affected populations are not receiving relevant information.
- Regarding education, 53% of Ukrainian children are not physically in school. There are Working Groups in place with Minister Joanna Mucha.
- WHO Representative had beneficial discussion with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education on Mental health issues.

IM update – MSNA:

- Last year’s analysis has been published. The analysis is divided in 3 documents: 1) [Results Overview](#), 2) [Protection Challenges](#), and 3) [Economic Living Conditions](#).
- The training sessions on 2024 RRP reporting have kicked-off. On 01.03.2024 a online training sessions will take place in English, and on 04.03.2024 a online training in Polish is scheduled. The user manuals on Activity Info Reporting will also be share in ENG and POL versions. The goal was to make reporting as simple as possible, with Project-based reporting on Activity info on a quarterly basis.
- Kevin J. Allen noted that the goal of the reporting is to maintain coordination among the partners, and the reporting will be used as an advocacy tool for funding, allowing UNHCR to present projects to donors.

Update on the Service Mapping - Mapuj Pomoc:

- Keeping data in the mapping up to date is the focus. In January, 11 new activities appeared in different cities. However, compared to November 2023, 84 activities ceased.
- There are 2 ways to support transparent mapping. First, by sharing the collected data in the form of an Excel file with Mapuj Pomoc. The data should include information such as the type of facilities, their form, age group, vulnerable group, online status, language spoken, help area, category of aid, description of activities (in PL, UKR, ENG). Another way to add data is through the [Mapuj Pomoc website](#).
- To update services of a third party it is recommended to email the Mapuj Pomoc mapujpomoc@toproste.org.
- Mapuj Pomoc trying to mobilize funds to ensure sustainability of the tool
- There are 15,000-50,000 site visits per month, plus the social media accounts garners around 100,000 visits per month.

NGO Forum Razem:

- Published tools and results: [Voluntary guidelines on the nature of contractual partnerships](#); Minimum standards for the polish context document; Investment in bilateral connections; Connecting local and national NGOs to the ISCG; Promoting the local and national NGO participation in the RRP
- Currently working on a Localization study.

- Active Working Groups:
 - Partnership – PAH and Plan International;
 - Advocacy – R2P and Oxfam
 - Belarus Border and Detention centers – Grupa Granica and NRC

- **Strategic topics for NGO Forum Razem in 2024**
 - Long term solutions for refugees in Poland
 - Finding visibility for 2025 and resource mobilization for the Ukraine response in Poland
 - Humanitarian and migration focused NGOs contribution to the development of the Poland's migration policy
 - New pact on migration and asylum and how it will affect the situation in Poland
 - The role of public social assistance systems in taking over humanitarian support to the most vulnerable. How can NGOs effectively support the transition and complementarity?

Aleksandra from NRC:

- Belarusian border: The WG was a space for local and international NGOs to exchange information and coordinate work at the border, and now it's time to focus on advocacy, with transition to the Protection Sector (focus is on how to coordinate work with the protection sector, how to align the advocacy effort). Last week meeting between NGOS working in Belarusian border and Frontex.

Protection Update:

- Terms of Reference of the Protection Sector will be amended to open space to include Belarusian border Protection Sector will start bimonthly meetings on the topics of Belarusian Border).
- Advocacy will focus on complementarity and crosscutting issues (technical expertise, collective shelter, special acts, ensure that all components are touched upon).
- Amendments to the special act entail overhaul of the legal framework for refugees from Ukraine, overhaul of the legal framework regarding other asylum seekers, and amendment to act on foreigners. Regarding the major changes to the special act, the Government decided on a 2-step process.
- The amendment to the special acts on 22 February:
 - Technical extension of temporary Protection until 30th June 2024 is not in line with the EU framework.
 - European Council decision extended the Temporary Protection to March 2025 (<https://ecre.org/ecre-policy-paper-transitioning-out-of-the-temporary-protection-directive/>).
 - The Government will align polish legislation with the European Council decision.
- The Government committed to conduct consultations with NGOs. Mid-March expected a first draft of what the new legislation will look like and potential consultations.
- Extensions of legal titles, visas. Possibility for medical staff to allow to practice under flexible arrangement, with no validation of diplomas necessary for 28 months. However, this has not been extended to mental health professionals. There is also a lack of extensions on drivers' licenses. Extensions were in place for families with kids in school, before 1st July another amendment is expected.
- Monitoring of collective shelters is to be coordinated with the shelter sector. The shelters are run by private individuals, which gives rise to issues of potential exploitation, protection issues, there is no monitoring, no ways to detect exploitation. In the special act there is nothing on monitoring the collective sited on the voivodeship level. (Shelter sector started drafting bullet points for changes in draft, those will be shared with Protection Sector).

Updates from Sectors/ Working groups:

- **GBV:** After a consultation process through a survey with 25 different GBV partners, 90% indicated the need for a separate sub-sector structure for GBV meetings (requesting a confidential, safe space for GBV technical matters). As a result, the GBV sub-sector meetings are going to start in March 2024.
- **SHELTER, HOUSING AND ACCOMMODATIONS:** Growing interest from partners in cash-for-rent. The Cash-for-Rent WG drafted a guidance note on issues such as transfer values and eligibility criteria. The Sector also developed a fact sheet, focusing on advocacy and fundraising, which will be coordinated with the Protection Sector before being published.
- **ECONOMIC INCLUSION SECTOR:** Launch of a study by Deloitte for UNHCR on Analysis of the impact of refugees from Ukraine on the economy of Poland, with a livestream on 5 March 2024, Tuesday, 10.00 am - 11.30 pm in [Polish](#) and [English](#).
- **HEALTH:** Evaluation of the Sector coordination, with a report being drafted with recommendations to strengthen the sector.
- **MHPSS:** Revised ToRs and work plan for the next year. Focus on capacity building.