



## Otaci Local Refugee Coordination Forum Meeting at Municipal Hall

Meeting Details	
Date	09 04 2024 - Next meeting 07 05 2024
Time	11.00 – 12.00
Chair	Cuznetova Alexandra, Field Team
Reporting	Cazacu Andrei, Field Team
Email	<a href="mailto:cuznetov@unhcr.org">cuznetov@unhcr.org</a> / <a href="mailto:cazacu@unhcr.org">cazacu@unhcr.org</a>
Agenda	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Introduction</li><li>2. Recent Developments in Otaci BCP</li><li>3. Activity updates</li><li>4. A.O.B.</li></ol>	
Information collection and relevant links	
<p>The legal basis for the ICRC emergency travel document is the ICRC's recognized universal right of humanitarian initiative, as set out in: • Articles 9/9/9/10 common to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 • Article 81(1) of Additional Protocol I of 8 June 1977 • Article 3 common to the Geneva Conventions • Article 5(3) of the Statutes of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, adopted by the States party to the Geneva Conventions. When, as frequently happens, the emergency travel document is used to reunite families, the legal basis is also set out in: • Article 26 of the Fourth Geneva Convention • Article 74 of Additional Protocol I</p>	



Participants
<p>Cuznetova Alexandra – UNHCR            Cazacu Andrei – UNHCR            Grecu Irina – UNHCR (online)            Zavrotschii Dimitri– Mayor of Otaci            Pavlenko Marharyta - Right to protection Ukraine            Grama Mariana – NRC            Merjievski Serghei - IOM            Petrovici Vladimir - IOM (online)            Coviia Rostislav - LCA (CDA) (online)            Derli Nicolae - ACTED (online)            Kovtun Daryna – ACTED (online)            Taran Diana – Action Against Hunger (online)            Chistruga Dorina – Blue Dot (online)</p>

**Summary of discussions and agreements / action points**

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p>1. Updating the SOP at OBS with all actors.</p>	<p><b>UNHCR</b> greeted the participants and informed that there are undergoing preparations for the referral pathways forum. The workshop is scheduled to last two days.</p> <p><b>Dimitri Zavrotschii– Mayor of Otaci</b> informed that there have not been reports of incidents in the past three weeks, and there is no increase of crossing at the border point. A local NGO based in Balti continues providing food to both refugees and locals. The Mayor informed that the playground next to the townhall, refurbished with UNHCR’s support, will be reopened soon. There is a negotiation with NRC to renovate another playground in the community.</p>	<p><b>Activity:</b>  <b>Responsible:</b>  <b>Deadline:</b></p>



<p>2. Update on recent developments that took place at OBS.</p>	<p><b>Serghei Merjievski – IOM</b> informed that during the reporting period, 6 beneficiaries were transported to Iași, and 167 received medical assistance. There are frequent inquiries regarding airlifts; therefore, IOM provides information about airlifts and other topics at the border and at the Border Reception Center.</p> <p><b>Mariana Grama – NRC</b> informed that they have been involved in the labor market integration program for socially vulnerable individuals during the reporting period. This program also includes those offering employment to refugees and those seeking employment. NRC covers the first 3 months of salary, which exceeds the average wage. Another program focuses on encouraging entrepreneurship; NRC assists in creating business plans. There are also training courses on financial education and grant opportunities from USAID, with support for startups upon course completion. With SERUP's assistance, NRC conduct a course.</p> <p>NRC also informed that it organizes language learning groups in Romanian and English. Following a request from the local authorities in the North regions, NRC conducts a course for 12,000 potential beneficiaries in Naslavcea for English and Ocnita for Romanian. Information sessions about NRC activities are held in surrounding villages; 527 beneficiaries were informed about financial assistance, rights, and aid from partner organizations.</p> <p>In addition to the above, NRC informed that 196 refugees have registered for assistance in the Ocnita center. There's an increase in requests compared to last year, with many unemployed individuals asking for employment support and families with children requiring clothes due to their growth. Some face issues with online schooling in Ukraine (mostly learning via phone).</p> <p>NRC does not work at the border; it focuses on villages and areas with more refugee populations. NRC have a shelter program to aid with household repairs and winter preparation, nearly 150 houses have been assessed. Additionally, NRC keeps providing legal information, repairs services, roofing, and water installations near homes.</p>	
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<p>3. General updates from all humanitarian actors at OBS.</p>	<p>NRC provides legal information, repair services, roofing, doors, and water installations near homes.</p> <p><b>Irina Grecu - UNHCR (online):</b> provided clarification on inquiries regarding financial assistance and eligibility criteria. Irina also informed that UNHCR is actively working on a solution for refugees living in areas with limited access to phone signal, and risking to lose financial assistance since they cannot be contacted by phone.</p> <p><b>Marharyta Pavlenko - Right to protection Ukraine</b> informed that more Ukrainians are crossing the borders and requiring NFI. R2P also stresses the need to pay attention to individuals with Russian citizenship since they are denied entry to Moldova if their visit purpose is unjustified.</p> <p><b>Nicolae Derli - ACTED (online)</b> informed that 100 people from the border to Chişinău, Balti, Drochia, Donduseni, and other 133 persons were transported based on special requests to RACs, doctors appointment, IGM and other.</p> <p><b>Dorina Chistruga – Blue Dot (online)</b> informed that during the period from March 17th to April 9th, Blue Dot provided services to 77 groups, totaling 119 individuals who benefitted from Blue Dot's services.</p> <p><b>Natalia Vrabii – CCF Moldova (online)</b> – informed that for the reporting period CCF Moldova organized 4 activities founded by UNICEF for teenagers in Otaci public school, attended by 16 beneficiaries, 4 activities for parents attended by 12 people, and 5 activities for children attended by 25 beneficiaries.</p> <p><b>Diana Taran – Action Against Hunger (online)</b> explained that since January, they have provided snacks and hot meals at the bus station for beneficiaries crossing the border. In March, AAH distributed 264 snacks and 177 hot meals. AAH stressed that it has presence at the OBS from Monday to Friday from 08:30 AM to 05:00 PM, and available to support in case of emergencies during the weekend.</p>	
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	<p><b>Rostislav Covi</b> - LCA(CDA) informs that for the reporting period, LCA provided consultations to 271 individuals on the topic of Temporary Protection (TP). Additionally, 290 beneficiaries received legal consultations, addressing inquiries regarding legal status, family matters, and the rights of Ukrainians. The Red Cross IFRC provides one-way travel documents. <i>(The Red Cross provides a type of emergency travel document for third-country nationals to exit Ukraine in the case they lack other documents.)</i>*</p> <p><b>Vladimir Petrovici</b>—IOM (online) confirmed that IOM continues to provide oncological medical programs and dialysis services. To this end, IOM collects and redirects needs accordingly. The nearest location is Balti, where people in need of dialysis or oncological consultations are redirected.</p> <p>*Details on this document are provided on Information Collection and Relevant Links</p>	
1. AOB.	<p>In exceptional cases, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) issues one-way emergency travel documents for humanitarian purposes to people who do not possess a passport or other recognized travel document and find themselves unable to return to their country of origin or residence, or to proceed to a country offering temporary or permanent refuge or asylum. These people could be asylum seekers, refugees, migrants in particularly vulnerable situations, forcibly displaced people or stateless people.</p>	