



Coordination meeting

MINUTES

Date: 01.02.2024 (Thursday)

Time: 11.30 a.m. – 1.30 p.m.

Place: Voivodeship Office in Lublin, column room

The main points of the agenda

Introduction and welcoming participants

Andrzej Maj – Lubelskie Voivodeship Office in Lublin

- Deputy Governor expressed his appreciation for the work done by the LCG and thanked all members of LCG for their effective cooperation and joint efforts to help refugees. He also expressed his willingness to continue the LCG regular meetings and to strengthen the cooperation between LCG members and VO during ongoing year.
- Andrzej Maj informed, that still two reception points are open at the building of the Voivodeship Office and railway station. Reception points are working very well and people working in these points are ready to inform newcomers about available support in Lublin.
- Deputy Governor stated that in Lubelskie Voivodship, there are 35 650 persons with UKR PESEL number out of which 2767 persons are living in collective shelters. In Lubelski powiat there are 405 refugees, in Krasnostawki 346, in Janowski 295 and in Włodawski 345.

Marco Procaccini – Head of UNHCR Field Office in Lublin

- UNHCR continues to support the Lubelskie Coordination Group as key priority and encourages others to do the same. UNHCR can also support sharing experiences with other regional coordination forum (i.e. Podkarpackie), and/or engage more on sectorial issues, joining efforts of several actors to tackle issues related to socio-economic inclusion, education, housing, among others we are part of the 2024 Regional Response Plan that will be launched in Poland in the coming weeks.
- As of today LCG gather the experience of 29 stakeholders, including 16 NGOs, 3 IOs, 4 Municipalities, several public institutions (The Board of Education, Labour Offices, ROPS), among others.
- Key functions so far played are:
 - Support coherent and consistent approaches between partners, and we saw this in relation to financial aid, support to economic inclusion, joint support to communities in need;
 - Support systematized and standardized information sharing on key operational issues, situation analysis and activities as well as encourage and facilitate joint advocacy and positions in relation to Lubelskie voivodship: a recently developed document on the profile of refugees in collective shelters and the proposed way forward was a very good example of this;



- Support and/or facilitate capacity building activities: X trainings and workshops have been organized by different LCG members in favour of its members ;
- Bolster linkages with established Sector coordination mechanisms in Warsaw and other regional coordination platforms as relevant: intervention both in person and virtual by sectors or intersector coordination mechanisms' representative have been hosted in the LCG;
- Bolster linkages, coordination and information exchange with local authorities as necessary: LCG became the platform for information sharing and coordination on what concerns refugees from Ukraine in Lubelskie. This is key function where the LCG plays a key role ;
- Promote coordination standards and quality assurance.

Jarosław Szymczyk – Director General of the Lubelskie Voivodeship Office in Lublin

- The Director General of the Voivodeship Office in Lublin warmly greeted the participants of the meeting, outlined his position and expressed his appreciation for the work of the Lublin Coordination Group to date.

2024 Key 2/3 priorities related to refugee response by each LCG member

Since 2024 has started, all the present members of LCG could present themselves and shared their future plans and challenges for 2024. Around 56 participants were representing public administration, NGOs, international organizations as well as municipalities.

Public Institutions / Municipalities

- Among public institutions, the Representatives of Voivodeship Office in Lublin, Voivodeship Labor Office, The Board of Education, Regional Social Policy Department, Municipality of Lublin, Municipality of Chełm and Municipality of Tomaszów Lubelski as well as other public entities presented their experience and plans.
- Mr Mariusz Wiktorowicz from Voivodeship Labor Office pointed out that the office has been planning to organize the new vocational courses of refugees.
- Mr Sebastian Płonka representing the Board of Education said that the main objective of Kuratorium is to provide psychological and pedagogical support for pupils from Ukraine. The Board of Education aims at building a safe space at schools in order to help them attend classes and adapt to Polish educational programs.
- Secretary of the Lublin City, Mr Andrzej Wojewódzki said that now is a time to think about managing refugee potential in Lublin landscape. He pointed out the special legal act on assistance to citizens of Ukraine would be amended. The future support for Ukrainian refugees should be then adapted to the new regulations. He also pointed out that the system of UKR PESEL holders need more clarity, especially on the continuation, deleting or losing the PESEL UKR number. He stated that three main thematic should be followed: education, future financial model for those who decided to stay in Poland and enrollment in Polish schools.



- Mrs Marta Rak from ROPS presented the idea of Integration Centers for Foreigners in Lublin, Zamość and Chełm. She also reminded a recently open temporary residence for refugees in Zamosc where the refugees could benefit from legal, psychological, career support.
- The representative of City of Chełm, Mrs Dorota Cieślik said that the city has been a transit hub for refugees and has been serving as information point. The city authorities are also engaging in assisting Ukrainian children at schools. They adapt educational program, create a safety space to speak about the traumatic events. They also coordinate a psychological support.
- The representative from Consulate General of Ukraine in Lublin expressed her appreciation and gratitude for a common effort in helping those fleeing Ukraine.
- Mrs Aneta Tkaczyk representing the Office for Foreigners expressed her gratitude for being present at LCG meeting. She outlined the office's upcoming plans, including faster processing of cases, setting up a hotline, and fighting fake news.

NGOs

- The NGOs such as Volunteer Center, Polish Red Cross Lublin Regional Branch, Caritas, Lublin Archdiocese and Zamość Diocese, The Rule of Law Institute Foundation, Homo Faber Association, Jan Zamojski Foundation, Eleon, Border Spirit Culturland Foundation, For the Earth Association, Sempre a Frente, Child Development Foundation (FRD) presented their activities which they have proposing to the refugees. Few of them are organized Polish language classes, legal support, psychological support etc. Each organization outlined its most important priorities for 2024. Some of the organizations described the challenges they are currently facing, including upcoming legal changes, seeking funding, reactivating social benefits for Ukrainian citizens, reaching out to people living in small towns, or seeking sustainable solutions for collective housing.
- Lena Grochowska foundation who runs a collective shelter shared few data. Currently the foundation runs 5 collective shelters including one in Lublin. There are app. 100 refugees living in Refugee House in Lublin, 90 % of which are working singles mothers. The children are going to schools, but they are struggling to be enrolled in post elementary schools.
- Mrs Edyta Borowicz – Czuchryta described her experience in running the recently open the Ukrainian Education Center in Lublin. She spoke with children who benefit from Polish and Ukrainian educational programs. In her experience, the children enjoy spending time at the facility and with their Ukrainian-speaking classmates and teachers. She raised a question concerning a further education of pupils who have finished an elementary school.
- Mr Paweł Prokop representing the Polish-Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce and Menegerial Initiatives Foundation said that they have been providing support for young adults from Ukraine wishing to stay and run a business in Poland. Some of them are still looking for a stable place and employment in Poland. The idea of opening a company in Poland could give them a good raison to stay and perspectives for a future. He also highlighted that the cooperation between Polish and Ukrainian local authorities was well established even before the war. He expressed his willingness to further this cooperation.



International Organizations / UN Agencies

- Mrs Magdalena Kuska from International Organization for Migration (IOM) said they have a mobile representation in Lublin. In their operations, they focus on integration activities, trainings for public administration. They are also present at the detention centers.
- Mrs Sylwia Brzezińska representing KIND organization, said their main goal is to assist refugee children. They have mainly lawyers in their organization which offer a legal support for kids, especially those without parental or legal guardian care. They are in regular cooperation with The Rule of Law Institute Foundation since they also gather lawyers and legal advisors largely experienced in dealing with legal aspects of foreigners in Poland.
- The Representative of Save the Children, Mrs Wiktoria Steffen spoke about the program offering a financial support to households currently living in collective accommodation. The program will cover the cost of rental individual housing during the first few months to enable participants to leave collective accommodation, find a job and make a smooth transition to independent living.

(Please find more information in the presentation attached)

Current situation in collective shelters in Lubelskie Voivodeship

Iwona Chlebicka - Department of Safety and Crisis Management

- The representative of the Department of Safety and Crisis Management of the VO in Lublin presented a report on places of collective accommodation in the Lublin Voivodeship. As of December 31, 2023, there were 2868 people in places of collective accommodation in 113 facilities in Lubelskie province. Number of total places: 4190, occupied 2868, vacant 1322. 1021 places prepared for immediate operation.
- Out of the above number, 2719 people are exempted from participation in costs of accommodation. 149 people contribute to the cost of collective accommodation.

Protection sector updates

Felicia Byrne – UNHCR

- UNHCR has provided updated data on the number of people with UKR PESEL numbers by poviats, including poviats with few refugee support services. Key data and challenges on the following areas were presented: places of collective accommodation in Lublin province; private accommodation; documentation, access to education, livelihoods and economic inclusion, mental health.

(detailed presentation attached)

Conclusions and summary of the meeting

- Mr Marco Procaccini described UNHCR's priorities for 2024:
 - Three pillar strategy from 2023 to continue to guide UNHCR: Ensure access to asylum and preserve protection space, while pursuing a consolidated asylum system that comports with international standards; Reach, protect and empower the most vulnerable; Facilitate inclusion, resilience and solutions for refugees.
 - 4 Partnership agreements with organizations operating in Lublin under different umbrellas. CARITAS, HF, ROLI, FDDS/Sempre a Frente.



- Small grants and operational coordination with others.
- Big part of UNHCR Response is through you all and the larger humanitarian community and that's why UNHCR effort on coordination will continue.
- UNHCR Direct Implementation with focus on: System change for population in collective shelters with VO (possibly) and with emphasis on communication with communities, engagement and solutions; Refugee engagement and empower >> reference group to be built across different existing constituencies; Outreach of refugee population outside large cities; Job orientation support; Education, enrollment to schools and support for children and youth; Cooperation with universities KUL and UMCS.
- Deputy Governor Mr Andrzej Maj proposed three main topics which should be discussed at the coming meetings. He pointed out challenges regarding re-activation of social benefits for refugees and in that case it would be good to invite a Representative from ZUS. The Deputy Governor asked LUW staff in Lublin to investigate the situation further in order to resolve it. Besides, it would be needed to cooperate with The Board of Education to assist pupils from Ukraine in Polish schools. He also stressed the importance of cooperation between Polish and Ukrainian local authorities and within Polish -Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce.

Action points

- To develop and distribute to LCG members an activity matrix containing updated contact information, current activities by sector, priorities and challenges for 2024, proposals for topics to be addressed at future LCG meetings.
- Signing of the declaration of participation in the Lublin Coordination Group by the entities that joined the LAG.

Participants

Name and surname	Organisation / Institution
Aleksandra Sępoch	Board of Education in Lublin
Sebastian Płonka	Board of Education in Lublin
Iryna Kostecka	Border Spirit Culturland Foundation
Katarzyna Targońska	Caritas Lublin Archdiocese
Ks. Marcin Jakubiak	Caritas Zamość Diocese
Solomiia Mykytseis	Consulate General of Ukraine in Lublin
Ihor Moskalyk	Eleon Helping Hands for Ukraine Foundation
Rafał Kołodziej	Eleon Helping Hands for Ukraine Foundation
Anna Milkivska	For the Earth Association



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Ada Milewska	Foundation of the Children Development
Agnieszka Tracz	Homo Faber
Milena Kloczkowska	Homo Faber
Julia Hek	IOM
Magdalena Kuska	IOM
Tetiana Shevchuk	Jan Zamojski Foundation
Sylwia Brzezińska	Kids in Need of Defense
Marta Brożyna	Lena Grochowska Foundation
Andrzej Maj	Lubelskie Province Governor's Office in Lublin
Aneta Tkaczyk	Lubelskie Province Governor's Office in Lublin
Beata Chodorowska	Lubelskie Province Governor's Office in Lublin
Jarosław Szymczyk	Lubelskie Province Governor's Office in Lublin
Karol Sankowski	Lubelskie Province Governor's Office in Lublin
Renata Rojek	Lubelskie Province Governor's Office in Lublin
Tomasz Makowski	Lubelskie Province Governor's Office in Lublin
Dorota Cieślik	Municipality of Chełm
Magdalena Kuska	Municipality of Chełm
Andrzej Wojewódzki	Municipality of Lublin
Krzysztof Stanowski	Municipality of Lublin
Wojciech Żukowski	Municipality of Tomaszów Lubelski
Edyta Borowicz- Czuchryta	Nationwide Educational Operator
Lidia Kokszarowa	Polish Red Cross Lublin Regional Branch
Paweł Prokop	Polish- Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce/ Foundation for Managerial Initiatives
Marta Rak	ROPS



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Renata Jońska	ROPS
Anna Bylicka	St Brother Albert Brotherhood of Charity
Ghulam Sakhi Rahioe	Save The Children
Katarzyna Chumakowa	Save The Children
Wiktoria Steffen	Save The Children
Marta Szczodrak	Sempre a Frente Foundation
Tomasz Sieniow	The Rule of Law Institute
Felicia Byrne	UNHCR
Kamil Raczyński	UNHCR
Marco Procaccini	UNHCR
Paulina Brożniak	UNHCR
Mariusz Wiktorowicz	Voivodeship Labor Office in Lublin
Ks. Mieczysław Puzewicz	Volunteer Center in Lublin
Ludmyla Beinkova	Volunteer Center in Lublin
Slaviana Triepa	Volunteer Center in Lublin
Lesia Yalovitska	Volunteer Center in Lublin