



Balti Local Refugee Coordination Forum Meeting

Meeting Details	
Date	18 09 2024
Time	11:00 – 13:00
Chair	Alexandra Cuznetova (Senior Field Assistant); Kyrylo Prykhodko (Inter-Agency Coordination Associate)
Reporting	Alexandra Cuznetova (Senior Field Assistant)
Email	cuznetov@unhcr.org ; prykhodk@unhcr.org
Agenda	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Introduction on the Local Refugee Coordination Forum2. Updates from all organizations on key achievements and main challenges3. Any other business	
Information collection and relevant links	
Participants	
Alexandra Cuznetova	UNHCR
Kyrylo Prykhodko	Inter-Agency Coordination
Andrew Blakely	Church World Service (CWS)
Teslaru Valentina	AO Zdorovii Gorod
Palade Rodica	Centrul de Drept al avocatilor
Tcaci Olga	Helvetas
Androsenco Ilie	Zdorovii Gorod
Rusnac Alina	
Oleg Corotusco	Acted
Sergiu Grosu	DR IGM Bălți



Aliona Babina	Uniunea Pentru Echitate si Sanatate
Oxana Buzovici	Uniunea Pentru Echitate si Sanatate
Aliona Plugaru	People in Need
Sergey Selyatin	People in Need
Maximo Longry Dell'Oliver	Peace Corps

Summary of discussions and agreements / action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
1. Introduction on the Local Refugee Coordination Forum	UNHCR Field Unit and Inter-Agency Coordination chaired the meeting and provided a brief reminder on the procedures and the scheduled agenda.	
2. Updates from all organizations on key achievements and main challenges	<p>Zdorovii Gorod informed to have started distributing vouchers to refugees from the North region of Moldova, to be exchanged in Linella and Metro. While in the past, the organization offered them to all groups of refugees, currently, they are distributed under specific vulnerability categories. Zdorovii Gorod continues providing English language classes and meetings with the youth every Friday and is also renovating a room for recreational purposes for young people as a means to support inclusion.</p> <p>Helvetas shared that their employment project "Achieving Resilience Through Employment and Social Cohesion" entered its second phase. Under this initiative, the organization is currently offering courses on IT, agriculture and support for startups through grants.</p>	



CDA highlighted that men crossing irregularly from Ukraine are being redirected to IGM to legalize their stay. Over 100 men appealed to CDA during the past month. The profiles of people requesting CDA services include men whose documents expired while being in Moldova and mothers whose children were born in Moldova.

ACTED continues providing infrastructure support and water to the refugee accommodation centers (RAC), as well as transportation from Otaci to Chisinau three times weekly. The organization is currently planning the distribution of winter items to accommodation centers jointly with UNHCR.

The General Inspectorate for Migration (IGM) informed that the influx of asylum seekers has increased – most of them are men avoiding conscription. Since the beginning of the year, over 2200 men have applied to IGM to be documented in the North area, while around 500 have done it at the country level. Some of them are applying for the residence permit alongside the Temporary Protection status.

People in Need is currently implementing two main projects: one focused on employment opportunities and another one on small grants for entrepreneurs in Balti. On 2nd September, the project of digital centers in public schools, supported by UNICEF, was launched. Classrooms were equipped for online education for Ukrainian children, with the objective of allowing them to continue their education in school facilities with the supervision and support of a teacher while interacting with other children. In Balti Municipality, two schools are already equipped with the digital center – Lyceums Mihai Eminescu and Stefan cel Mare, while two more schools are in the process of being prepared. PiN requested LRCF member support in disseminating this information to refugees so that children studying online can benefit from the digital centers. In addition to the above, on-site teachers in the digital centers provide individual support in the afternoon to help students with subjects such as Romanian, English, and Mathematics.

Uniunea pentru Echitate si Sanatate informed that they have dedicated social workers who assist refugees in making doctor's appointments two times per week. Additionally, they expect to conduct visits in other locations in the North area to support refugees outside the Balti municipality. The medical team includes a neurologist, a therapist, and a nurse who supports refugees with free medication on the basis of a physician's referral. Uniunea is focusing more on



	<p>working with refugees to make sure that they are included in the public medical system. To complement their interventions, UNAIDS is supporting Uniunea with HIV testing for refugees (including Roma refugees) and the host community. Uniunea also supports hepatitis and TB testing. Lastly, the organization shared that they have a crisis room for vulnerable refugees: initially opened for victims of violence, this space now accommodates men who cross irregularly and are waiting for documents. The room has two beds, and the accommodation is possible for a maximum of 10 days.</p> <p>UNHCR informed participants that after an advocacy process, MAIB eased the procedures for refugees' opening bank accounts. Additionally, the UN Agency informed that NFI distribution is taking place in Balti, implemented with the support of the Social Assistance Department.</p> <p>Inter-Agency Coordination thanked the partners for their participation in the Local Consultations, and informed that the IAC is currently working on drafting the 2025-2026 Refugee Response Plan (RRP) narrative chapter with inputs gathered during the local consultations. A draft will be shared with sector leads, and the final 2025-2026 RRP document should be ready by the end of the year.</p>	<p>UNHCR will invite the representative from Social Assistance Department to provide information about the process of creating the lists of beneficiaries.</p>
3. AOB	<p>Health-related questions: Uniunea pentru Echitate si Sanatate shared that refugees are complaining about the provision of medical services in Moldova. Older persons with double citizenship (Moldova/Ukraine) are not registered in the national health system -they are not registered as retired and don't have TP. The doctors do not accept them and refer them to NGOs for medical assistance. However, the NGOs do not have the necessary resources to assist them. Some refugees need to travel to Chisinau, given that some medical services are not provided regionally, including epilepsy, HIV lab exams, and treatment. Free services for such cases are provided only in Chisinau, which is not easy for refugees, especially older people, single mothers with little children, and the Roma community.</p> <p>Some refugees need medical interventions and despite the risks they are forced to return to Ukraine to receive the medical assistance because the service is not provided in Moldova.</p>	<p>IAC to liaise with Health Sector.</p>



	<p>Housing: Organizations informed that some refugees received rental assistance, which ends in winter. They are excluded from UNHCR cash assistance and don't have a place to live during cold periods, especially families with children.</p> <p>Education: Ukrainian children who are not enrolled in local schools but study online in digital classrooms do not receive food there; parents do not receive financial aid and don't have the means to pay for the lunches (One lunch costs 18 lei per child). Organizations asked to support these children in Balti either with food or money for lunches including vulnerable local community.</p>	<p>UNHCR to inform the protection unit and partners to put in place the local referral pathways to enhance the provision of assistance.</p>
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