Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

ACTED

UNHCR

Basic Needs Working Group Meeting – 09 of December 2024	
Meeting Details	
Date	*09.12.2024*
Time	*15:00 pm*
Lead and Co-lead	*Andrea Cuisana, UNHCR – Almothana Hasan, ACTED*
Reporting	*Almothana Hasan*
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Agenda

1. RACs consolidation update
2. Winter Update
3. Contingency Plan Update
4. Update from partners
5. AoB

Information collection and relevant links

Participants

Andrea Cuisana, UNHCR	*Natasa Omerovic, IOM*	*Stelea Natalia, UNHCR*
Almothana Hasan, Acted	*Fadel Daoud, WFP*	*Berdos Cristina, CRS Moldova*
Tudor Vicol, MLSP	*Corina Andronic, UNICEF*	*Hannah Ursol, PiN*
Rotaru Mihai, MLSP	*Carr Chelsey, CWS*	*Osoianu Irina, CRS Moldova*
Emmanuel Otika, UNHCR	*Senedu Negash, IOM*	*Gorceac Mihaela, Acted*
Cristina Boldescu, NRC	*Athina Nalmpanti, Acted*	

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Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
1. **RACs consolidation update**	**<u>Active RACs</u>** There are in total 26 active RACs and 1392 beneficiaries accommodated. From which: • 102 PwD • 275 Beneficiaries 60+ • 53 children 0-2 y.o • %15 children 2-18 y.o **<u>Reallocation statistic's 2023-2024.</u> Total: 886 individuals/372 HHs** • Relocated to other RAC - 138 HHs/312 Individuals • Rental assistance - 85 HH/226 Individuals • Private accommodation – 68 HHs/179 Individuals • Relatives/Host Families – 21 HHs/32 Individuals • Undecided/Remain 5 HH/ 14 Individuals • Other 23 HH/ 53 Individuals • Departure from Moldova (Ukraine, EU) – 32 HHs / 70 Individuals **<u>RAC #1092 – T6 – was officially closed on 29th of November.</u> Total: 27 HH / 112 Individuals** • Rental assistance – 3 HH/ 8 Individuals • Relocated to other RAC – 14 HH / 71 Individuals • Private Accommodations (Relatives/Host Family) – 4 HH/ 16 Individuals • Departure from Moldova – 6 HH / 17 Individuals **<u>Planned Closures 2025</u>** MLSP provided a list of centers to be closed next year. Most of them scored the lowest in the RACs Assessment. The closure will start mid-end January, with the center in Chisinau and Telenesti **IOM** suggests including the priority list as reference, to compare also with the result of the RACs assessment. **UNHCR:** the managers of 2 centers requested already to close the RACs. These centers (#100 and #151) are led by international organizations.	**If any partner doesn't have access to the register of the ministry, to inform the MLSP**

	IOM enquired the occupancy rate for the remaining 26 RACs, and it was specified that the maximum capacity is 1670. **CWS** what resources are given to the people that are living in the Glodeni center, because there is a big Roma community there. **UNHCR** we understand that finding another accommodation will be difficult, so maybe we will have to revise, to advocate with the ministry and to see if the closing time should be extended. Roma mediator is part of the closure process in the centers with Roma population. **MLSP** mentioned if any organization doesn't have access to the RACs database it can be provided upon request. For 2025 10 centers are identified for closure. The centers had the lowest score in the RAC assessment, however there are three centers that are managed by private organizations, that requested the closure to return to its previous activities, providing services to different vulnerable groups. The beneficiaries have not been informed yet about the closure until the list is defined and the closure process is prepared, the lists still may suffer changes, according to MLSP, in the cases the managers decide to close it. • According to the procedure the beneficiaries are informed 2-3 months in advance after the official letter regarding closure is issued by the ministry. • Some of the private centers notified the ministry about the intend to close due to lack of funds. 1. **Discrimination cases in the centers with Roma refugees:** MLSP requests that all cases regarding discrimination should be addressed immediately to the ministry. MLSP states that no discrimination will be tolerated. **2. Refugee integration** in the community is a priority for the ministry, as the centers are a temporary solution. There are families accommodated in the centers since 2022, even if they are already working. The longer they stay in centers, the more difficult it will be for them to integrate in the community.	
Winter Update	**Overview of winter response:** Submissions received in the ActivityInfo from IOM, Acted, NRC, WeWorld, PIN and Concordia supporting both refugees and Local vulnerable population – divided by **4 components.**	**Partners to update information in Activity Info regarding winter activities**

1. **16 RACs** identified after thorough assessment to improve the living conditions for winter: enhance insulation, repair works, sewage system, replace doors, provide boilers. Works are planned for completion by mid-December.

2. **Private Accommodation** – with focus on light and medium winter upgrades through cash/technical support trough DI: target – 125 HH (70% Refugees, 30% HC) – to enhance thermal insulation and upgrade heating systems. Completion expected for November 2024

3. **Community infrastructure** NRC – completed thermal insulation for 3 facilities in Soroca, Ocnita, Edinet, benefiting 2500 people both refugees and vulnerable Moldovans
   PiN – Ongoing repairs in three schools to improve energy efficiency, benefiting 1450 people. Completion – December 2024.
   WeWorld – Insulated the façade of a high school in Congaz, benefiting 343 children.

4. **Firewood distribution** IOM – provided support to Concordia with firewood distribution across their centers in Șoldănești, Soroca, Drochia, Ialoveni, Dubăsari, Criuleni and Basarabeasca. Completion – December 20th.

UNHCR has requested that all partners update the ActivityInfo platform with their planned winter activities. These updates should include:
• A clear timeline for distributing assistance,
• The precise location of activities, and
• The current project status (completed, ongoing, or planned).
Some partners have not provided these details in the system, resulting in most activities still being marked as “planned” in ActivityInfo.

To address this, a separate meeting will be scheduled with partners who plan to distribute NFIs, ensuring their decisions and timelines are accurately reflected in the system.

- **UNHCR**: 3,881 individuals in Călărași, Nisporeni, Cahul, Căușeni, Ștefan Vodă, Ceadîr-Lunga, and Comrat.
- **Caritas Moldova**: 750 individuals in multiple locations, including Bălți, Briceni, Drochia, Edineț, Florești, and other locations.
- **CCR**: 500 individuals in Chișinău.

	• **Moldova Red Cross Society**: 7,000 individuals across various areas.*)* • **NRC**: 3,572 individuals in Ocnița, Soroca, Briceni, and on the left bank of the Nistru. • **UNFPA**: 1,480 individuals in Anenii Noi, Briceni, Drochia, and several other locations. **17, 183 individuals are targeted to be assisted with winter clothing and items.**	
Contingency Plan(CP)	This is an update from the ready-made plan developed in 2023. The contingency plans are only executed once the relevant scenario materializes. Hence, our plan remains as set for the 2023 scenario. In the event the conflict in Ukraine escalates, particularly in the Odessa region, an influx through the southern border is anticipated—especially via Palanca. Should such an influx occur, the contingency measures outlined in the plan will be activated accordingly. **Population group:** Refugees and asylum-seekers • **CP figure** (projected new displacement for first 3 months of emergency response) 500.000 people • **CP figure of persons to be assisted** (for first 3 months of emergency response) 150.000 people In total, estimated basic needs partners activities & response budget: $23.378.394 In total, estimated basic needs UNHCR response budget: USD 2.145.137 Accommodation: Previously, the contingency plan included a total of 86 RACs, of which 18 were specifically designated to the CP. Alongside these, 25 RACs have been frozen—while 26 RACs remain active and available. IOM enquiries that in the current contingency scenario, it is estimated that out of a potential influx of 500,000 people, 150,000 may remain in Moldova? UNHCR clarifies that according to the interagency plan, these individuals are expected to stay for an average of 3 to 5 nights, requiring a rotational accommodation strategy ("transit cycles"). By combining these facilities (active, frozen, and potential RACs), the capacity can reach 12,000 persons. Additionally, the	

150.000 people will not arrive all at the same time, it will be in a period of three months, considering that the first 10 days will be when more influx of people will require accommodation.

Partners' activities and total budget: $ 23,378,394

1. **Basic Needs** - **Partners**: APSCF, CRS, IOM, Moldova Red Cross Society, NRC, The Moldova Project, UNICEF, WFP, WVI will provide **with an estimated response requirement** of **USD 9,127,966**.
    - NFI Distribution (including hygiene kits)
    - Provision of emergency MPCA
2. **Basic Needs (Food Security)** - **Partners**: HEKS/EPER, The Moldova Project, WFP, WVI **with an estimated response requirement of USD 10,201,248**
    - Meals in RACs, border snacks, one-off emergency food vouchers
    - Provision of emergency MPCA
3. **Basic Needs (Transportation)** - **Partners**: ACTED, HAC Jewish Community, IOM, Laolalta with an estimated response requirement of **USD 1,719,180**
    - Humanitarian transportation (border points to shelters or onward)
4. **Basic Needs (Shelter)** - **Partners**: ACTED, IOM, UNHCR with an estimated response requirement: **USD 1,900,000**. Support the establishment of collective sites.
5. **Basic Needs (WASH)** - **Partners**: IOM, UNICEF with an estimated response requirement of **USD 430,000**
    - Deployment of WASH facilities (e.g., latrines, showers, water supply)
    - Operation and maintenance of WASH infrastructure at sites

UNHCR Activities and total budget: USD 39,205,637 through direct implementation projects

- **Basic Needs** (MPCA) - **Partner**: CRS, plus direct UNHCR implementation with a budget of USD 37,060,500
- **CCCM** - **Partner**: ACTED with a budget of USD 1,667,137

	• **Shelter & NFI** (Rehabilitation of Collective Sites, NFI Distribution) - **Partners**: ACTED, UNHCR with a budget of USD 478,000.	
Updates from Partners	**UNICEF** → Delivery of hygiene supplies - done directly by UNICEF before the new partners are onboard → Target all the RACs open, but the key connection will be with the manager, not individuals → Critical situation with the maintenance of wash facilities continues **WFP** Together with HelpAge will continue distributing hot meals to RACs for 2025 → Plan to contract Caritas for hot meals provision to the borders → The final meeting for Food Security Sub-WG will be next week **ACTED** → Continues with NFI family hygiene kits distribution in RACs (started on Monday and finish on Friday, last distribution of the year) → Is finalizing the winterization works in 16 RACs, by the end of the week → Finalized the decommission in 5 RACs (#12, #44, #43, #110, #137).	