



Regional Refugee Response
for the Ukraine Situation



Palanca Local Coordination Meeting

Meeting Minutes – 12 February 2025

1. Meeting Details

Date	12 February 2025
Time	12:00 – 13:00
Chair	Volokh Karina, UNHCR Field Associate
Reporting	Volokh Karina, UNHCR Field Associate
Email	volokh@unhcr.org

2. Agenda

1. Introduction
2. IAC Update on Performance Survey and local co-chair
3. Recent developments and updates at Palanca Border Reception Center
4. Challenges encountered
5. General updates from all humanitarian actors at Palanca Border Reception Center
6. Any other business (AoB)

3. Information collection and relevant links

Moldova operational data portal: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784>

Local Refugee Coordination operational data portal: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/search?>

4. Participants (Name, Position, Organization)



- Karina Volokh, UNHCR
- Pierre Alejandro Chacon Zambrano, UNHCR
- Denis Potereanu, CDA
- Diana Ciorba, ACTED
- Olga Costenco, IOM
- Serghei Zubco, IOM
- Irina Cruselnicchi, IOM

5. Information collection and relevant links

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/Actions
<p>Introduction and Update on recent developments in Palanca Border Reception Center</p>	<p>UNHCR opened the meeting, sharing the following updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On 6th November, UNHCR received a visit from the ACTED Country Director and Country Programme at the Palanca Border Reception Centre. UNHCR provided a guided tour of the facilities, highlighting the essential services offered to refugees, with the discussion revolving mainly around the solutions for transportation from the border to the Palanca BRC. • On 26th November, WFP visited Palanca BRC to monitor the implementation of its programs and identify opportunities/improvements for the future. The aim is to ensure that both organizations are aligned in their strategies and resources to respond more effectively to beneficiaries' needs while continuing to provide food assistance. <p>WASH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between the 6 and 8 of November, Apa Canal of Stefan Voda emptied all the drains from Palanca BRC. 	



- On 8th November, IGSU replenish the water tanks of the sanitation facilities as part of a regular maintenance procedure to ensure there is sufficient water supply in sanitation systems.
- On 7th February, UNICEF and UNHCR held a meeting at the BRC, to monitor the current state of the WASH facilities. On the same day, water filters were replaced in all the facilities.

Transportation:

From 6th November till 12th February, UNHCR coordinated transportation with GLORIA and ACTED to Romania (145) and available RACs (48). Refugees went through medical checkups, received hot meals and travel kits, and accessed child-friendly spaces during their stay at the BRC.

Transportation	Gloria NGO	Transportation to RACs	ACTED
	145		48

Any other Business:

- On 19th December, UNHCR, CDA and Social assistance of Palanca met to discuss the current situation of refugees in the area, with particular attention on new arrivals and identified needs.
- On 31st December, Blue Dot suspended its operations at the Palanca Border Reception Center. With the closure of their facilities, the support they offered to mothers and children becomes unavailable. While their services are suspended, the containers previously used by Blue will remain in place on the territory until



Inter-Agency Coordination Updates	<p>March to serve as a contingency measure to address potential emergencies or urgent needs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">On 13th January, within the framework of a visit to Moldova, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Gandi, and UNHCR Regional Director for Europe, Philippe Leclerc, visited the BCP, to witness the current state of the crossing point and the BRC.On 18th and 19th January, UNHCR conducted a regular monitoring visit at the border to assess any potential changes in the flow of people, following intensified explosions in Ukraine. No significant change in the number of refugees crossing was observed.As of 1st February, IOM will withdraw from the Palanca BCP as a result of due to significant budgetary constraints. <p>The IAC unit shared the results of the LRCF performance survey with participants in Palanca. The feedback was overall positive, reflecting the active involvement of participants in the coordination efforts. Some recommendations were made to improve information sharing within the LRCF. Additionally, the IAC informed that, following the application process for the position of local co-chairs in each LRCF, no local organization applied in Palanca (since no local organization has a full presence in the site). Therefore, there won't be a local co-chair in this forum at the time being. UNHCR will continue supporting in this role.</p>	
Activity updates from participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">IOM informed that since November 6th to the date, the organization transported 145 refugees to Romania using IOM buses (87 women, 10 children, 48 men).	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CDA informed that starting from January 16th, the Border Police required technical verification for all Ukrainian vehicles. Nevertheless, the verification process lasted only one week despite the requirement for all vehicles to present the technical verification when entering Moldova and the EU. Third-Country Nationals (TCNs) continue to face strict passport control checks, resulting in long waiting times for them to receive clearance.• ACTED shared that between 16 November 2024 and 12 February 2024, 48 refugees were transported from the Palanca Border Reception Center to RACs. Additionally, 523 refugees were transferred through special transportation requests between different points of Moldova.	
6. Details of the Next Meeting		
Date	TBC	
Time	12:00 – 13:00	
Venue	Palanca Border Reception Center	