

Małopolska Coordination Group Meeting

Meeting Minutes – 17 November 2022

Meeting subject:	Małopolska Coordination Group Meeting
Time & location:	9 am – UNHCR Krakow Sub-Office
Chaired by:	UNHCR; Open Krakow Coalition
Minutes prepared by:	UNHCR
Participants:	Malopolski Urzad Wojewodzki; CLEAR Global; CORE Response; Fundacja Instytut Polska-Ukraina; Fundacja Kocham Debniki; Fundacja Jednosc; Fundacja Understanding; Fundacja Zrodlo Zycia; Internationaler Bund Polska; Halina Niec Legal Aid Center; Kalina Krakow (Zupa Dla Ukrainy); OWiM; Project Hope; Save the Children; Slotowa Siec Goscinnosci; UNHCR FO Rzeszow; UNHCR SO Krakow; UNICEF; VOICE Amplified; Youth with a Mission; ZHP
Agenda:	<p>Introduction from the co-chairs and update on the points decided on the last Coordination meeting.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Updates from the refugee community and UA-led organizations 2) Presentation of feedback from survey on coordination model (Open Krakow Coalition) 3) Presentation of upcoming trauma relief initiative (Fundacja Understanding) 4) Contingency plan – presentation and Q&A (UNHCR) 5) AOB
AGENDA POINT	DISCUSSION
Introduction and update on points from last meeting	<p>Participants were welcomed to the seventh Małopolska Coordination Group meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Krakow Coalition shared that the Coalition is hosting a fundraising drive for families and individuals living near the front line in Ukraine. The Coalition is aiming to collect 4,000 mats, 4,000 sleeping bags, and 4,000 power banks. Partners interested in donating or learning more are invited to contact Ivan Kysloshchuk (Ivan.kyslshchuk@uainkrakow.pl) • UNHCR provided updates on recent activities in Malopolska and more broadly. UNHCR is preparing for a potential second wave of refugees and increasing preparedness. This is also why contingency planning has been placed on the agenda for the present meeting. In accordance with the above, UNHCR has begun registrations for targeted cash assistance for vulnerable individuals and families in Wroclaw and Lodz and will soon begin in Krakow. UNHCR will also receive a winter clothing donation at the end of November and has already contacted 5 Voivodeships to inquire about needs and distribution. Finally,

	<p>UNHCR is currently carrying out a Participatory Assessment which will highlight problems and solutions identified by the refugee community.</p>
Agenda point 1	<p>There were no updates provided under the given agenda point.</p>
Agenda point 2	<p>Open Krakow Coalition presented the results of a survey carried out among Coalition members on the coordination meeting model.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Among others, Coalition members raised the following points and suggestions: that the hours of the meeting rotate between 9 am and another time – possibly in the evening – so that more representatives of organizations can attend; that the meetings are recorded or that there is the availability to join online. In addition, participants expressed that they appreciated the availability of English-Polish-Ukrainian simultaneous interpretation. • UNHCR provided feedback on suggestions from a technical perspective. In regards to evening meetings – the UNHCR office is only open until 18, so this would be difficult to do if the current location is to be kept. Varying the meeting time and an online component also complicate the booking of interpretation services and make it more difficult for participants to plan their schedules. In general, it was also noted that the possibility of online participation could hinder the local nature and focus of the coordination meetings, as participants involved in the humanitarian response could join from elsewhere in the country or region.
Agenda point 3	<p>Fundacja Understanding shared a presentation about funding received for an upcoming trauma relief initiatives for refugees and those working with refugees. Additionally Fundacja Understanding shared how partners can get involved.</p>
AOB	<p>UNHCR Rzeszow shared a presentation on the current situation and contingency planning in the border Voivodeships of Podkarpackie and Lubelskie.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was noted that discussions regarding winterization and contingency planning had been ongoing since August. These plans mostly concern the border area. There are currently 4 trains that come from Ukraine and arrive in Poland and it is possible a 5th train linking Kherson and Przemysl will be added soon. In Przemysl people crossing

the border must change trains, and Krakow – which is on a major train line – is one of the main destinations for refugees.

- UNICEF asked what percentage of new arrivals are those coming to Poland for the first time.
- UNHCR Rzeszow clarified that new arrivals are those registering in the PESEL system for the first time.
- ZHP asked several questions about new arrivals – including how new arrivals are verified at the border, because PESEL registration takes place at the municipality level and new arrivals also come to and register in Krakow. As well, recently observed trends at the Krakow train station indicate that many new arrivals are entering the Schengen zone first through the Baltic states and then coming to Poland, and others are returning to Poland from other locations in the Schengen zone after having initially left.
- UNHCR Rzeszow responded that this is information that may be found with the Polish government. However, in general in Poland there are two protection regimes – temporary protection and refugee status. The latter does not apply to Ukrainians, so all Ukrainians in Poland are applying for temporary protection.
- UNHCR Krakow noted that it is very difficult to determine the exact number of people arriving. UNHCR Krakow additionally asked if ZHP could provide more information about relocation from the central relocation point at the train station, and where, specifically, refugees are being relocated too. UNHCR Krakow also noted concerns heard from refugees that they will soon need to begin paying for their accommodation at collective shelters.
- The Plenipotentiary of the Voivode noted that those payments are for those refugees who have been in shelters for a longer period of time and not those who have newly arrived. The Plenipotentiary of the Voivode offer to provide further information during her regular bi-meeting update on 1 December.
- ZHP replied that refugees are relocated to locations in the database maintained by the Voivodeship. Refugees can also relocate to hotels – which play a vial role as short term accommodation while refugees wait for more long-term solutions. Hotels are also very important for temporary housing for individuals with disabilities and health problems, who often cannot stay in collective shelters while they wait for other solutions.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR Krakow shared that the partnership with Hilton hotels under which refugees could receive two weeks of free accommodation in Krakow would conclude on 26 November. UNHCR further noted that the general Hilton program had ended already in June, but that some hotel owners had continued of their own decision to continue in the hotels they own.
<p>AOB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voice Amplified asked if motivation and engagement of volunteers could be added to the agenda for the next meeting. Many organizations have seen a decrease in the eagerness of people to volunteer since the spring, and currently do not have enough volunteers. • Voice Amplified shared information about two ongoing initiatives. For organizations providing direct services to refugees the organization is holding a series of humanitarian aid sessions. For NGO leaders and coordinators who would like to improve their English and learn humanitarian vocabulary – including writing grant proposals – English classes beginning at the B1 level are being held. Those interested in either offer are invited to contact polandoffice@voiceamplified.org • Open Krakow Coalition asked if discrimination against refugees could be added to the agenda for the next meeting on 1 December. In Krakow, one restaurant providing services to refugees recently received many negative comments online. Open Krakow Coalition asked if a discussion could take place on how to deal with such issues. • UNHCR highlighted that social cohesion is an important topic and a discussion should be had in the future about how to prevent and deal with these types of actions. • UNHCR Krakow shared information about an upcoming job fair for refugees and Polish citizens that will take place in Krakow on 8 December. NGOs working on economic inclusion – including cv guidance and Polish language courses – are invited to set up stands. • Save the Children asked if there is an economic inclusion working group. Save the Children also asked about how often the UNHCR cash database is updated. UNHCR has the biggest cash program and Save the Children tried to check for duplications when making enrollments into its own cash program, however it is difficult to find information.

- UNHCR Krakow agreed to share the proper contacts with Save the Children following the meeting where these questions could better be directed.

ACTION POINTS SUMMARY				
No.	Action	Responsible	Deadline	Status (as of)
1.				Ongoing
2				Ongoing