



## Otaci Local Coordination Meeting

Meeting Minutes - 23 May 2023

### 1. Meeting Details

<b>Date</b>	23 May 2023
<b>Time</b>	11:00 - 12:20
<b>Chair</b>	Alexandra Cuznetova, UNHCR Field Assistant
<b>Reporting</b>	Andrei Cazacu, UNHCR Field Associate
<b>Email</b>	cazacu@unhcr.org

### 2. Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Recent Developments in Otaci BCP
3. Activity updates
4. 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)

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| - Catalina Sampaio, OIC, Field Unit, UNHCR       | - Faureanu Natalia, Coordinator, Blue Dot          |
| - Hideaki Kojima, Associate Field Officer, UNHCR | - Margaryta Pavlenko, Monitor, Right to Protection |
| - Alexandra Cuznetova, Field Assistant, UNHCR    | - Voychyk Svetlana, Monitor, Right to Protection   |
| - Andrei Cazacu, Field Associate, UNHCR          | - Preda Alexei, Bahtalo Ker                        |
| - Vladimir, Deputy Mayor, Otaci Mayor Office     | - Anastasia Russu, People in Need (online)         |
| - Ecaterina Covtun, Base Manager, ACTED          | - Yulia Pyndus – Acted (online)                    |
| - Merjievski Serghei, Project Assistant, IOM     | - Rostislav Covdii, CDA (online)                   |

### 5. Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points



Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p><b>Introduction</b></p> <p>Alexandra Cuznetova, UNHCR Field Assistant, cuznetov@unhcr.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>The Deputy Mayor</b> welcomed all participants to the meeting, and reported that there were no major changes to the flow of border crossings in the last 2 weeks, which remains small. Exceptional situations or situations that deserve more attention have not been registered. There is no cause for concern, and the situation is calm and managed together with the present partners.</li><li>• <b>UNHCR</b> shared the following points:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– On 11 May 2023, the first mobile visit took place in Briceni with ACTED, CDA and INTERSOS.</li><li>– On 16 May 2023, an Information Session with refugees took place at Otaci Bus Station. The refugees were informed about the Temporary Protection and services available in Otaci.</li></ul></li></ul>	
<p><b>Mobile Team Visit</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Given the fact that there were not many beneficiaries present at our information session during the first visit to Briceni, it was decided to repeat another visit in Briceni on 24 May 2023. The mobile team will consist of the same members: CDA, ACTED and INTERSOS. All the participants of the mobile team have been informed about this in advance.</li></ul>	
<p><b>Activity updates from participants</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>ACTED</b> shared the following points:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– ACTED transported 57 refugees from Ukraine to Chisinau, and 5 from the border to different RACs. There were some special requests to transport 5 beneficiaries from Edinet and 5 beneficiaries from Glodeni to IGM office in order to obtain Temporary Protection.</li><li>– ACTED continues with the distribution of snack kits, and 37 snacks and 8 SIM cards were distributed during the last 2 weeks.</li><li>– Beneficiaries are frequently asking questions about late payment of financial assistance. They are also receiving some questions from third country nationals (e.g. why they cannot cross the border), which were referred to CDA.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>UNHCR</b> reminded participants of the importance of reporting high-risk protection cases regularly to UNHCR every time it happened. UNHCR can contact colleagues in UNHCR Romania and UNHCR Ukraine to provide support to people who cannot cross the border.</li></ul>	



- **Right to Protection (R2P)** shared details on entry denial cases at the border point. These cases were reported to UNHCR Ukraine. In this regard, **Deputy Mayor** supplemented that the Moldovan Service of Information and Security (SIS) is also involved in monitoring of the border, and the mentioned cases happened because of missing documents.
- **ACTED** informed us that the border would be closed between 31 May and 3 June 2023 by car due to the European Political Community Summit and all flights will be suspended between 27 May and 4 June 2023.
- **CDA** seconded the point made by R2P that the entry denials at the border must have been due to security reasons. They shared another case of denial.
- **UNFPA** reported that they provided services to 58 beneficiaries with no change in activities. Frequently asked questions are about Temporary Protection and the 45-day restriction of leaving the country when applying for TP. We provide the beneficiaries with information and psychological assistance.
- **People in Need** shared the following points:
  - The mobile team is currently active in the northern part of Moldova, providing temporary protection updates. In this region, beneficiaries have no concerns except for a recent lifting of the emergency measure to allow Ukrainians to stay in Moldova without time limit. During the mobile team, the beneficiaries asked us questions about medical services and Temporary Protection.
- **Right to Protection** shared the following points:
  - No change in flow of people at the border has been observed and R2P continues to provide support at the border. If there are cases that require assistance or extra attention, R2P is in communication with colleagues in Moldova to help people to access transportation or legal assistance. No unusual cases have been identified.
  - R2P's activity consists of monitoring of people crossing the border.
- **Blue Dot** shared the following points:
  - The flow of crossings is average, and we noticed that people were well-informed when arriving at the Blue Dot office. We provided services to 123 people, of which 92 adults, 31 children (including 5 unaccompanied children with 2 children in family type foster



	<p>care). There were cases that required special assistance, which were dealt with with partners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>IOM</b> shared the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– During the last two weeks, 6 people asked for support to leave for Iasi airport. Eventually they could not be assisted because they already had flight tickets and they would not have arrived at the airport on time with the designated bus schedule.</li> <li>– There were 80 referrals to the doctor at the bus station. The doctor is providing services not only for the beneficiaries coming from Ukraine but also for locals. Given the fact that IOM is offering assistance to the locals, these locals should also be allowed access to the bus station. On this point, UNHCR agreed that locals who receive medical assistance can access the bus station.</li> <li>– The bus schedule to Iasi has been changed. The next bus will leave on 25 May to Iasi, not on 26 May.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Bahtalo Ker</b> explained about their activity, saying that they offer washing facilities for Ukrainian people and the local community, which includes a bathroom and laundry facilities.</li> <li>• <b>People in need</b> added that they are also working on starting a project to open a centre to offer help to people in the community with a special attention to Roma community, especially to children. They would like to work with Bahtalo Ker on a joint activity to help children from the local community and Roma population.</li> <li>• <b>CDA</b> shared the following points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– During the reporting period, 31 beneficiaries received legal assistance. During the border monitoring, CDA observed that the border police carried out border control more thoroughly, especially on men, by asking them purpose of their visit to Moldova. If there is no convincing reason, their entry to Moldova is refused. Some cases of minors and unaccompanied children wishing to cross the border were referred to social assistance.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
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**6. Details of the Next Meeting**

<b>Date</b>	06 June 2023
<b>Time</b>	11:00 - 12:00



Venue	Otaci Mayor Office
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