



Coordination meeting

MINUTES

Date: 17.08.2023 (Thursday)

Time: 11.00 p.m. – 1.15 p.m.

Place: Lublin Voivodship Office, column room

The main points of the agenda

Introduction and opening remarks

Bolesław Gzik - Deputy Governor of Lublin Voivodeship

- We are observing a tense situation along the Polish-Belarusian border. There is a noticeable increase in the number of attempts to cross the border. The situation is being monitored on an ongoing basis.
- The situation regarding places of collective accommodation for refugees from Ukraine is stable. Status as of 17.08:
 - 5426 available places
 - 3302 occupied places (Approx. 60% of used places)
 - 1280 places possible to activate within 24 hours
- On August 1, the operation of the reception point in Chelm was suspended. Two reception points in Tomaszów Lubelski (no persons as of 17.08) and Hrubieszów (8 persons as of 17.08) continue to function. VO in Lublin is considering the suspension of the reception points with the possibility of their quick reactivation within 24 hours.
- At all border crossings points with Ukraine, information points operate 24/7. A reduction in the staff of information points from two to one person is being considered.

Marco Procaccini – Head of UNHCR Field Office in Lublin

- UNHCR observes an increase of the movement in both direction (PL-UKR/UKR-PL), however it is attributed by Border Guards and others, including UNHCR, to seasonal movements related to school holidays, seasonal works, summer season. Therefore by September it is expected to be normalized.
- UNHCR recently issues position on voluntary return to Ukraine. The document recalls the nature of voluntary return as a fundamental right and articulates its implications for the specific context of Ukraine with the necessary safeguards to be considered.
- 3 facilities were recently rehabilitated: 2 apartments in Chelm that will be occupied by refugee families, as well as the intervention on the full replacement of heating and hot water system completed in the Refugee house run by LGF in Lublin, a large rehabilitation undertaken in the boarding school of Kluczkowice will be handed over on 23 August for further use as collective site.
- UNHCR wants to thank the different stakeholders for the work done in respect to the enrollment of refugee children in Polish schools. It is important to recall the importance of the





impact our joint efforts may have to not lose even one day ahead of the new school year to pass the messages on the importance of enrolling students in Polish schools. For this reasons we have made available some posters to all of you in Polish, Ukrainian and English to be used to outreach the refugee community both virtually and offline and continue to spread the messages that were launched nationally few weeks ago with the Continuous Learning Campaign promoted by UNICEF. More materials is available upon request and I am confident that we can quickly convey another working meeting on Education to go more into details of who can do what and how.

Streamlining anti-fraud awareness in humanitarian assistance

Felicia Byrne - UNHCR

- The topic of streamlining anti-fraud awareness in humanitarian aid is extremely important, primarily to ensure the safety of refugees and applicants for international protection, the risk of loss of trust from the community, the risk of loss of reputation for humanitarian actors, and the risk of loss of credibility among donors, thus reducing financial resources.
- Examples of fraud include: identity misappropriation, fraud of documents, exploitation schemes, and organized crime.
- Recent reports have confirmed cases of fraud, including unknown individuals attempting to collect biometric data in collective shelters, unidentified people at train stations approaching women, selling registration information for financial aid.
- Anti-fraud activities: All staff should clearly identify themselves and wear appropriate visual identification; Communicate key anti-fraud messages verbally at all activities; Use available materials on protecting families from fraud/exploitation (see handouts); Establish a complaints and feedback mechanism
- Report suspected fraud to local police. In case of suspected UNHCR staff involvement: inspector@unhcr.org.

Multi-level management of humanitarian aid in the Lublin Voivodeship - research results

Karolina Podgórska, PhD - UMCS

- The project is implemented in partnership with Lesa Ukrainian Volyn National University in Lutsk. Implementation period: 05.09.2022 - 05.11.2023
- The aim of the research was to map central, local, public, private, formal and grassroots entities involved in crisis management and relief efforts for those fleeing after February 24 from Ukraine to Poland or from Ukraine's eastern regions to its western regions. A total of 68 actors.
- Motivations of actors interviewed: social duty; personal and business contacts with people from Ukraine, sense of empathy, sense of immediate danger, mandated tasks, administrative proximity, overlapping motivations.
- Coordination of activities: VO in Lublin, local municipalities, state services, higher level local government, non-formal initiatives, synergy (LSKPU example). Grassroots activities and taking action from the so-called "need of the heart" were important.





- Initiatives to improve coordination: creating a management structure, expanding activities (territorially), initiating a needs assessment, formalizing plans, creating schedules, monitoring activities and feedback, e.g. video conferences at the Governor's office, LSKPU meetings, introducing effective tools.
- Success factors: personality traits, networks of acquaintances, solidarity and grassroots initiative, support of volunteers, mutual trust, willingness to help among the Ukrainian community, cooperation of various actors, hard skills, use of resources, satisfaction and sense of agency, speed of response, division of competencies, force majeure e.g. bypassing/no procedures.
- A full report on the conducted project is under preparation. Its final form will be published online.

Education of children with refugee experience in the school year 2023/2024 Summary of the working meeting and discussion on plans and challenges of reception and assistance to refugees in Lublin Voivodeship in the fall/winter

Kamil Raczyński – UNHCR

- Working meeting on education and school enrollment was held on 4 August. Main outcomes:
 - All participants agreed on the need to take additional measures to encourage parents to enroll Ukrainian children in Polish schools, but also to introduce appropriate legal solutions, primarily at the level of the Ministry of Education and Science, to support the educational process for Ukrainian children and youth.
 - There is consensus on the need of hiring Ukrainian teacher assistants and intercultural assistants in Polish schools and joint advocacy on this regard for local fundraising and prioritization.
 - Ideas for activities to encourage parents to enroll their children in Polish schools: information and promotion campaign using a variety of communication channels and materials, organization of extracurricular activities, equipping pedagogical libraries and preparing additional training for teachers, cooperation with parents as ambassadors for enrolling children in schools. A barrier and challenge in putting ideas into practice is the need for additional funding for the above-mentioned activities.
 - Systemic solutions are needed that will both encourage parents to enroll their children in Polish schools, but at the same time support education in the broadest sense and equalize educational opportunities for Ukrainian children and youth.

Magdalena Witan – Ministry of Education and Science

- From the level of the Ministry of Education and Science, considering the statistics, the situation related to the enrollment of children in schools has stabilized. The difference between students who joined the Polish education system after February 24, 2022 (about 183,000), taking into account the comparison of numbers at the end of the 2021/2022 school year and the end of the 2022/2023 school year (about 178,000) is only 5,000 people.





- For the 2022/2023 school year, all legal solutions that were created from the level of the Ministry of Education in the previous year have been extended. For the upcoming 2023/2024 school year, all legal regulations are already prepared. It is worth highlighting the amended regulation of the Ministry of Education and Science, the consolidated text of which should be published in the coming days. MEiN does not expect a large fluctuation in the number of new students from Ukraine. The number of students is assumed to be at a similar level.
- MEiN is cooperating with the Ministry of Education of Ukraine, with the Embassy of Ukraine in Warsaw. The Ukrainian side positively evaluates the efforts made in Poland. However, the Ukrainian side is very keen on the possibility of continuing education in the remote system in Poland, due to the expectation that children and young people will return to Ukraine.
- There are statutory solutions for school recruitment, including basic recruitment and supplementary recruitment. If a foreign student enrolls in the Polish educational system for the first time, he or she is admitted to a school according to the current available places. The current position of the Ministry of Education gives the same recruitment rules for all individuals.
- Regarding the hiring of teacher assistants, the decision to hire personnel is up to the leading authority (municipalities).
- ORE conducts a number of activities for teachers, including training on working with a student with migration experience. Educational policy directions also take into account this theme.
- MEiN is open to proposals and ideas for new legal solutions. Eager institutions and NGOs can submit their proposals for solutions by sending an email to: magda.witan@mein.gov.pl

Teresa Misiuk – The Board of Education in Lublin

- The Board of Education in Lublin received only one complaint related to violence motivated by nationality. The complaint was handled in accordance with the applicable regulations.
- After February 24, 2022, the Board of Education in Lublin began a number of activities to prepare schools for the admission of foreign students, including meetings for principals, meetings for educators, prevention and education programs, which are approved and implemented by each school.
- There were about 2,000 Ukrainian children in the Lublin province before February 24, 2024. At the end of the 2022/2023 school year, the number of predominantly Ukrainian foreign children is about 11,000.
- The need for additional psychologists and educators is very high, especially those prepared to work with people from Ukraine. However, it should be noted that in recent years there has been a significant increase in the employment of specialists in Polish schools.

Nationwide Continue Learning Campaign

Hande Dilaver – UNICEF

- Under coordination with Ministry of Education and Science UNICEF is trying to harmonize and standardize quality of accessible education to ensure that all children, including those from Ukraine have equal access to education.





- CLC campaign consists of 3 components:
 - Info-Pack - comprehensive source of information on learning opportunities, registration processes and proposed activities for Ukrainian families. Info-pack is considered as working document.
 - School Registration Survey – Tool to collect data on chosen educational pathways, reasoning behind it and challenges on access to education
 - Problem Log – tool to collect data on incidents connected to access to education that Sector Members encounter in the field
- Future actions planned with new extended information. Building more specified sources of information needed by Ukrainian families; providing new materials for dissemination; proposing new activities encouraging enrollment for sector members; addressing results from data collection tools.

Participants

Name and surname	Organisation / Institution
Bolesław Gzik	Lubelskie Province Governor's Office in Lublin
Renata Rojek	Lubelskie Province Governor's Office in Lublin
Wojciech Zbiegień	Lubelskie Province Governor's Office in Lublin
Marco Procaccini	UNHCR
Felicia Byrne	UNHCR
Kamil Raczyński	UNHCR
Małgorzata Gałan	UNHCR
Teresa Misiuk	The Board of Education in Lublin
Aleksandra Sępoch	The Board of Education in Lublin
Andrzej Wojewódzki	Municipality of Lublin
Małgorzata Jończyk	Municipality of Lublin
Dorota Cieślik	Municipality of Chełm
Olena Hryb	The Rule of Law Institute
Anna Dąbrowska	Homo Faber
Andrzej Borowik	Homo Faber
Mariusz Wiktorowicz	Voivodeship Labor Office in Lublin
Przemysław Kozłowski	Voivodeship Labor Office in Lublin
Jacek Jęczmionka	Caritas Lublin Archdiocese
Katarzyna Targońska	Caritas Lublin Archdiocese
Filip Bujnowski	Save the Children
Paweł Prokop	Polish – Ukrainian Chamber of Commerce, Menegarial Initiatives Foundation
Karolina Podgórska	Institute of Sociology, UMCS





Regional Refugee Response
for the Ukraine Situation

Andrzej Jekaterynczuk	Institute of Sociology, UMCS
Iryna Horeniuk	ADRA Foundation
Renata Jońska	ROPS in Lublinie
Marta Brożyna	Lena Grochowska Foundation

