

Polish Shelter, Housing & Accommodation Sector meeting

24th April 2024

RRP for Ukraine Situation

Agenda

1. Inter Sector Coordination updates: funding opportunities, reporting, Geneva global NGO consultation meeting, Filippo Busconi UNHCR (15')
2. Updates
 - Follow up: Proposed changes in the Special Act – presentation after the roundtable meeting (30')
 - Partners updates (15')
3. Training offer for Shelter Sector partners: wrap up, Paulina (10')
4. Migration Consortium – new research presentation, Sarian Jarosz (10')
5. Multi Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) – Consultation of the Shelter questions part (10')
6. Cash for Rent WG – discussion related to RAIS platform (25')
7. AOB

1. Inter Sector Coordination updates - Filippo Busconi UNHCR

- Funding opportunities & reporting,
- Geneva global NGO consultation meeting

<https://www.unhcr.org/events/2024-unhcr-global-consultations-ngos>

2. Updates

- Follow up: Proposed changes in the Special Act – presentation after the roundtable meeting (30')
- Partners updates (15')

MAIN CHANGES – SHELTER & ACCOMMODATION

1. New rules regarding exemption from CC fees from certain categories of people using collective accommodation long-term (120 days+). Concerns how to ensure that it is just and transparent? MOI claimed that it would be best if kept within the Wojewoda office (special committees will be established).
2. Abolition of the one-off benefit of 300PLN
3. Article 12 - Collective centers will be now recognised only once they have minimum of 10 people residing (this provision doesn't include CCs organized within public housing stock properties, f. ex. Communal apartments)
 - In line with the discussion during the public consultations on 9th April and follow-up with the MoI, facilities offering accommodation for less than 10 persons, but managed by NGO operating for at least 24 months, that provide support for people from vulnerable groups (listed within point 17c) will be allowed for signing contracts with Voivode to continue the provision of accommodation support.
 - MOI has also agreed on including people with disabilities from 2nd group to be exempt from the co-payment fees in the CCs

MAIN CHANGES – SHELTER & ACCOMMODATION

4. Major change related to Article 13, so called 40+ benefit: private hosts will no longer be able to receive financial support for refugee accommodation:
- Organisations running collective centers based on Article 13 (40+) will have the opportunity to sign an agreement with Wojewoda and become officially recognised collective site as under the current Article 12
 - Positive aspect: the authorities will have more oversight and control of the conditions and overall situation in collective centers
 - Negative aspects: the risk of homelessness and destitution, especially among the most vulnerable groups, may increase (2 weeks notice period for evictions in July), forced premature decisions to return to Ukraine
 - After the meeting with MoI we were asked to support in provision of a list with organisations providing accommodation in collective centers. **If your organisation is currently running collective site under the article 13, please contact us: send the name of the NGO, voivodeship, full location address, and contact business e-mail address until Friday, April 26.** You can send this information outside the Shelter Sector to your trusted partners. We will forward this data to the Ministry of Interior and Administration; **it may work as the fast track of NGOs concluding direct partnerships with Wojewoda office.**
 - Current data from MOI: app. 40.000 people remain at CCs run by Wojewodas. Approx. 50.000 refugees are under the support from 40+ (data may vary, MoI does not have a precise estimation)

SHELTER & ACCOMMODATION SECTOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Since people are currently benefiting from 40+ support on a long-term basis belong to a group of particularly vulnerable people ([DTM published their report in Polish & English](#)) we recommend paying special attention to for their needs during the transitional period after the expiry of the Article 13.

- Providing access to information and clear steps regarding possible alternative forms of accommodation, including available places in collective accommodation centers.
- Broad information campaign is recommended, the launch of a hotline operating in Ukrainian and Russian, along with information on the adaptation of a given center to the needs of people with special needs
- Including people with disabilities from 2nd group to be exempt from the co-payment fees in the CCs
- Creating a simplified path for concluding contracts with the Voivode for NGOs currently running collective accommodation that benefit from funding under the article 13.
- Create a list of criteria enabling transparent identification and verification of relevant entities, including those regarding technical guidelines
- Conducting an analysis and research on this group to assess in which regions there are the most such people. This will make it possible to prepare appropriate support for collective accommodation after the expiration of this benefit

3. Training offer for Shelter Sector partners: wrap up, Paulina (10')

[IOM_training_offer_fr_Shelter_sector.xlsx](#)

4. Migration Consortium – new research presentation, Sarian Jarosz (10')

Migration Consortium new research on "Labour exploitation stemming from accommodation arrangements of forced and economic migrants in Poland after 2022"

- This research aims to collect data and identify constructive recommendations to address the urgent and underreported issue of exploitative labour practices, in particular in the context of private and collective accommodation arrangements of migrants, asylum seekers and refugees in Poland. The study focuses on labour exploitation in the post-2022 realities, shaped starkly by the Ukrainian refugee reception in Poland, as well as its impact on the labour and accommodation risks faced by other vulnerable migrant groups. We have identified 2022 as a defining point for this area of study, yet we do not limit the scope to the Ukrainian refugee reception.
- The main issues to be addressed:
 1. What are the present patterns and experiences of labour exploitation among economic and forced migrants in Poland?
 2. Are there any migrants' characteristics (such as citizenship, legal status, language competence, age, use of labour intermediaries, links to co-ethnics, migration experience, gender) that expose economic or forced migrants to varying forms of economic exploitation?
 3. Whether, and if yes how, the labour exploitation experiences are linked to accommodation arrangements?
 4. What is done and what should be done to better identify and prevent the risks of economic exploitation, in particular those stemming from (linked to) accommodation arrangements and the existing law on migrants' access to the labour market and their conditions of work?

5. Multi Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA): Consultation of the Shelter questions part (10')

[Poland Multi-Sector Needs Assessment 2024 - Questionnaire Revision - Google Sheets](#)

MSNA 2023

SHELTER / ACCOMMODATION



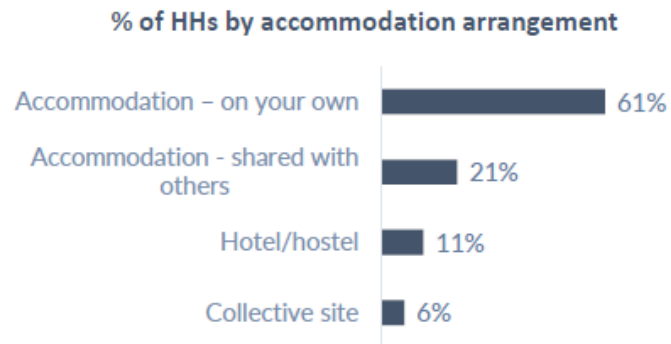
UNHCR
The UN Refugee Agency

IOM
UN MIGRATION

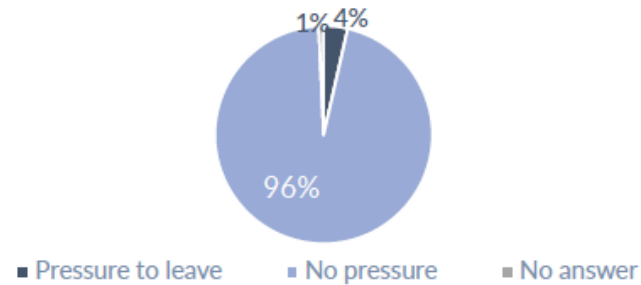


Regional Refugee Response
for the Ukraine Situation

HOUSEHOLDS – SECURITY OF TENURE, LIVING CONDITIONS (1/2)



% of HHs under pressure to leave accommodation



Regarding the living conditions of HHs, the most common arrangement is **accommodation on their own (61%)**. **21%** share with others, **11%** live in a hotel/hostel, and **6%** at a collective site.

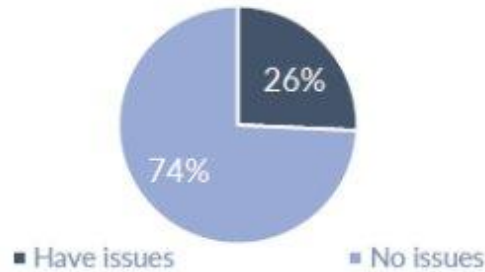
Only **4%** of HHs are facing **pressure to leave** their accommodation.





HOUSEHOLDS – SECURITY OF TENURE, LIVING CONDITIONS

% of HHs with living conditions issues in current accommodation



% of HHs by living conditions issue type



26% of HHs report issues with their current living conditions. The most common problems are **not enough space** and a **lack of separate showers or toilets.**



6. Cash for Rent WG – discussion related to RAIS platform (25’)

7. AOB

Next Shelter meeting - Wednesday 29th May 2:00pm