



Otaci Local Refugee Coordination Forum Meeting at Municipal Hall

Meeting Details	
Date	15 05 2024 - Next meeting TBC
Time	11.00 – 12.00
Chair	Cuznetova Alexandra, UNHCR Field team
Reporting	Cazacu Andrei, UNHCR Field Team
Email	cuznetov@unhcr.org / cazacu@unhcr.org
Agenda	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Introduction2. Recent Developments in Otaci BCP3. Activity updates4. A.O.B.	
Information collection and relevant links	
Participants	



Cuznetova Alexandra – UNHCR

Cazacu Andrei – UNHCR

Pierre Alejandro Chacon Zambrano – UNHCR

Kyrylo Prykhodko - UNHCR

Zavrotschii Dimitri– Mayor of Otaci

Grama Mariana – NRC

Covdii Rostislav - LCA (CDA)

Grama-Cojocar Nicolae - UNFPA

Merjievski Serghei – IOM

Ion Botnariuc – Helvetas

Ion Grădinari – Helvetas

Tcai Olga – Helvetas

Pleşco Maxim – Bahtalo Ker

Liulca Marcela – DOFM Soroca

Lazari Rodica – DOFM Ocnîța

Carolina Untilă – Helvetas (online)

Natalia Făureanu – BlueDot (online)

Pavlenko Marharyta - Right to protection Ukraine (online)



Summary of discussions and agreements / action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p>1. Updating the SOP at OBS with all actors.</p> <p>2. General updates from all humanitarian actors at OBS.</p>	<p>UNHCR greeted the participants , thanked them for their presence, and introduced participants.</p> <p>Dimitri Zavrotschii– Mayor of Otaci informed that there have not been reports of incidents in the past weeks, and there is no considerable increase of crossing at the border point. The flow of people crossing the border has remained unchanged over the past six months. The Mayor informed about a joint meeting with the border police from both sides of the Dniester, where it was shared that patrols on both sides have been reinforced. The local authorities of Otaci were not invited to participate in the meeting. Lastly, an increase in the water levels of the Dinester makes irregular border crossing more dangerous.</p> <p>Serghei Merjievski – IOM informed that during the reporting period, six beneficiaries were transported to Iași, and 93 received medical assistance. IOM is receiving frequent inquiries regarding airlifts and TP.</p> <p>Mariana Grama – NRC shared that the organization is currently running a welfare program, and opened a program focused on employment. At this stage, NRC is identifying individuals interested in finding a job. In this regard, NRC asks if a refugee secures an employment, how will this impact their eligibility for financial assistance from UNHCR.</p> <p>On May 22, “Development AID” in Ocnița will hold an information session at 11:00 AM specifically for individuals seeking employment. This session will provide details on the criteria for employment.</p>	<p>Activity:</p> <p>Responsible:</p> <p>Deadline:</p>



NRC is also implementing a program that cover expenses for companies hiring refugees for the first three months for a maximum value of 13,700 lei per month. Out of the total beneficiaries of the project, 70% will be refugees and 30% vulnerable Moldovan people. Another program focuses on businesses, offering vocational training, and they are currently prioritizing companies eligible for these courses.

Additionally, during the past month, NRC has assessed over 66 houses inhabited by refugees to benefit from repairs work. By the May NRC aims to identify 125 beneficiaries for this program. The organization is currently in the process of selecting the company that will carry out the repair work -which includes replacing windows and doors, repairing roofs, sealing cracks, and restoring walls.

NRC highlights encountering questions regarding the new criteria for financial assistance payments. They suggest considering the activation of more HOT-LINE numbers, as many refugees call to find the line is often busy.

Nicolae Grama - Cojocaru – UNFPA informed that during the reporting period, 89 individuals were supported to preregister for temporary protection. Additionally, 15 persons received assistance and one person received psychological support.

Rostislav Covi - **LCA(CDA)**: informed that 200 individuals were registered for temporary protection, while 240 benefited from legal consultations.

During the monitoring period, 24 Ukrainian male citizens crossed the border irregularly, all of whom requested asylum. An increase in the number of Russian and Belarusian citizens who were in Ukraine with expired documents has been observed.

As a result, they are unable to enter the territory of the Republic of Moldova and remain stranded in Ukraine. This situation has led to Ukrainian authorities requesting that they leave Ukraine, but due to their expired documents, they are unable to do so.



Natalia Făureanu – BlueDot (online) shared that during the reporting period, 168 people were assisted. Additionally, ongoing activities for children up to 6 years old and for adults are maintained. Our project has been extended until December 2024. In Otaci, we will continue to extend activities inside the center for youth and children; no other activities are scheduled.

Marharyta Pavlenko - Right to protection Ukraine (online) highlighted that the flow of people crossing the border has increased due to the mobilization law. Over the past seven days, individuals crossing the border for the first time have been observed, including those coming from Kharkiv. These persons transit through Moldova towards European countries -few of them choose to stay in Moldova.

Maxim Pleșco - Bahtalo Ker shared that the haircut services and shower facilities continue to operate. With the assistance of the municipality, they have opened a mediation center within the town hall, where they provide support to individuals who cannot read or write.

Pierre A. Chacón, Associate Inter-Agency Coordinator addressed concerns shared by NRC regarding the possibility of discontinuation of cash assistance for refugees that secure a job. Employment status does not directly affect UNHCR financial assistance, since beneficiaries for MPCA are selected using formulas that evaluate vulnerability based on different factors.



<p>Helvetas Presentation on Employability Programme</p>	<p>Carolina Untilă —Helvetas (online) made a presentation on their project for resilience building through employment and social cohesion, addressed to refugees from Ukraine and vulnerable Moldovans. The presentation will be shared via email to distribute the information to all the LRCF participants.</p> <p>This initiative has a focus on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. capacity building to ensure coordination and provision of services for refugees.2. integration into society promoting activities implemented for social cohesion between refugees and Moldovans.3. Activities within this project include repairing kindergartens in Anenii Noi -soon in Bălți -to support mothers to attend courses or participate in the local economy-, provide grants for existing business and start-ups, ongoing language courses on English and Romanian, and vocational courses.	
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