



Tiraspol Local Refugee Coordination Forum Meeting

Meeting Details	
Date	13 11 2024
Time	11:00 – 13:00
Chair	Olena Koval (UNHCR); Pierre A. Chacón (Inter-Agency Coordination)
Reporting	Pierre A. Chacón (Inter-Agency Coordination)
Email	chacon@unhcr.org ; kovalo@unhcr.org
Agenda	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Update on Localization Process.2. Women Matter’s presentation on ecologic and agricultural projects.3. UNHCR update on cash-based assistance.4. Updates from all organizations on key achievements and main challenges.5. Any other business.	
Participants	
Olena Koval	UNHCR
Pierre A. Chacón	Inter-Agency Coordination
Yigit Gurer	UNHCR
Alex Toloceenco	Charity Fund “We are Close”
Dmitry Vozonuc	Charity Fund “We are Close”
Natalia Moisevici	IOM
Damien Fresnec	IOM
Fadel Daoud	WFP
Andrei Grileanu	ADRA
Yigit Gurer	UNHCR
Tatiana Bogaci	NRC
Marina Mikhailova	HH "МСП"
Ecaterina Luposco	CDA
Dana Cafitulova	Women’s initiatives
Caterina Savchina	Women’s initiatives
Corneliu Tarus	CPDI PO



Tatiana Sergheeva	Eteco
Svetlana Karpira	Resonance
Inga Dubina	Interaction
Mariana Stavenscaia	Interaction
Marina Lasoy	Motivation
Iulia Plesco	Charity Fund We are close
Ianna Vilkovaia	Center for Public Health
Elena Burlaca	MIG
Goerge Albu	IOM
Iulia Volslova	OHCHR
Juliana Abramovic	OHCHR
Vladimir Formenko	Cooperation
Vaceslav Popescu	CDA
Cechir Ilona	CDA
Татьяна Медведенко	АзиСгТир

Summary of discussions and agreements / action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
1. Introduction on the Local Refugee Coordination Forum	UNHCR opened the meeting and provided a brief reminder on the procedures and the scheduled agenda.	



<p>2. Update on the localization process.</p>	<p>Inter-Agency Coordination (IAC) informed the participants that inputs from during the Local Consultation exercise were used to inform the Refugee Response Plan (RRP) country chapter. A report containing the key inputs from the consultations can be accessed online on the Operational Data Portal (ODP)</p> <p>Participants were also informed that, with the objective of strengthening the localization process from the coordination perspective, the IAC unit drafted Terms of Reference (ToRs) for an LRCF co-chair selected from among the local organizations. This co-chair will have coordination responsibilities, jointly with UNHCR, under a rotational basis for a two-year period. At this stage, IAC will share this information with all LRCF during their meetings in November. Once this phase is completed, the ToRs in Romanian, Russian, and English will be shared, and the application period for interested organizations will open.</p>	<p>IAC to share the ToRs for the local co-chair and open the application process.</p>
<p>3. Presentation on eco-agricultural opportunities by Women Matter</p>	<p>Women Matter Organization made a short presentation on potential opportunities for refugees in the fields of ecological agricultural production. The organization highlighted the need to support sustainable sources of livelihood for refugees and reduce their dependence on assistance, stressing the challenges faced by people living in villages distant from the center. As an alternative to this, Women Matter proposes to consolidate efforts around the ecological business model. Women Matter has been working on environmental projects for several years, and based on their experience, they consider that the natural resources available in the area are sufficient to allow refugees and locals to access livelihoods. Their holistic approach includes capacity-building around reducing waste food, recycling materials, and using wood as an alternative and affordable heating source during the winter period.</p> <p>Among the potential activities, Women Matter signals the advantages of growing microgreens and crops at a small scale in communities where people can grow products for consumption and, if possible, for sale in local markets. Additionally, the organization refers to the possibility of crafting mobiliary and other products with wood under a sustainable business model. The organization informs that they have trainers and are currently putting efforts into fundraising.</p>	<p>UNHCR informed that there are fund/grant opportunities that are prepared and shared every month by the Inter-Agency Coordination unit. Inter-Agency will share again with all participants after the meeting.</p>



<p>4. Updates from all organizations on key achievements and main challenges</p>	<p>Women Initiative states that as the war continues, there is an increased demand for MHPSS due to the prolonged exposure to the emotional distress that arises from the displacement. This organization currently has a support group that supports over 100 refugees in terms of MHPSS. OSORC took the opportunity to draw attention to the risks faced by children when their parents or caregivers must temporarily go to Ukraine. According to OSRC, there are cases in which children are left for several days with their grandparents—many of whom suffer health problems—or with neighbors. The organization recommends discussing possible strategies to support these families and their children and mitigate the risks for the latter.</p> <p>Eteco informed of the deployment of a new mobile team that includes a lawyer, a psychologist, and a physician ready to provide medical advice, including where to attend to treat any given health issue. Eteco reminds the LRCF to take advantage of this services for the benefit of refugees.</p> <p>Interaction shares that they have been providing medical assistance for families with children and people with disabilities. There has also been a notable increase in the requests for psychological assistance—given the prolonged character of their displacement, refugees understand they need to take action to remain emotionally stable to the best of their abilities. In addition, the organization shares that between September and October, they received assistance requests from 25 people with disabilities.</p> <p>Interaction also draws attention to Ukrainian children's difficulties in renovating or obtaining documentation. When the war started, many children were 13-15 years old. Many of these children are now on the threshold of adulthood, and their parents refuse to take the boys to Ukraine to get them the necessary documents. In Ukraine, a citizen's passport is issued from age 14. Parents fear that their sons, who are approaching draft age, will not be released from Ukraine, so they prefer not to document their children. In some cases, parents are afraid to seek counseling from NGOs, fearing that they will be forced to turn to Ukrainian state authorities.</p> <p>Between 5 and 6 December, Interaction will hold the conference New Horizons of Integration. The purpose of this conference is for refugees to share and discuss how have their lives changed over the past years, and most importantly how their inclusion process in their host communities has been.</p>	<p>UNHCR will discuss the concerns on children with the Child Protection Unit and seek for advice.</p>
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<p>UNHCR Update on Cash Assistance in the Left Bank</p>	<p>Resonance Center informed that they continue providing basic hygiene kits for refugees, including diapers for children. The organization alerted about the fact that many families do not have appropriate clothing for winter, particularly children, as they outgrow the items they already have. Additionally, Resonance reports that families are increasingly seeking psychosocial support for children and skill training in different areas for all family members. Resonance Center provides some skills training for women and, in most instances, has the funds to offer small equipment to put into practice what has been learned -for example, manicure equipment that helps participants have a means of livelihood.</p> <p>Medical and Social Program informed that they have been providing humanitarian aid and psychosocial support to refugees for the past year. This organization has provided cash assistance to 700 families, but there are too many more in need, struggling to find jobs and cover basic needs, especially during winter.</p> <p>OHCHR informed that they are conducting regular protection monitoring, and in October, they received numerous complaints about more medical services becoming fee-for-service. Likewise, numerous complaints have been about not understanding the vulnerability criteria for UN financial assistance. The lack of understanding leads people to think of corruption in this matter.</p> <p>Women Matter supported OHCHR's intervention by stating that people in distant localities don't have access to basic health services, and there are cases where people get seriously ill and don't have a medical center to go to or cannot afford transportation to a hospital. Roma families are particularly vulnerable in this scenario.</p> <p>IOM informed of having completed the selection of partners to continue the implementation of activities for a third year regarding refugees with disabilities and with chronic diseases.</p> <p>UNHCR addressed the concerns regarding cash assistance. During the past two years, 125,000 individuals have been reached through UNHCR's cash assistance program, and since the early stages of its implementation, the agency has conducted Post-Distribution Monitoring (PDM). PDM has observed a slight increase in refugees' socioeconomic capacity, which is expected since they are adapting to life in Moldova. However, the reason for the reduction of assistance is not related to the results of the PDM but to the decrease of funds.</p>	
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5. Next meeting	<p>Refugees wonder why some have not been included in the program when they have a vulnerability. However, it must be considered that around 80% of refugees have specific needs. Currently, there are not enough funds to cover the needs of such a high percentage of people. Therefore, UNHCR prioritizes the already existing needs by selecting the most vulnerable among them or with more vulnerability factors, for which a formula with a scorecard system is applied. In the case of Transnistria, UNHCR targeted around 2,000 individuals, but now it is targeting 1,600 individuals.</p> <p>Additionally, UNHCR has put in place a reconsideration mechanism and has broadly disseminated information about it. Refugees who believe their data was not appropriately captured during the household vulnerability interview or those whose circumstances changed recently can apply for reconsideration of the decision regarding cash-based assistance. Once refugees open a case for reconsideration, these are reevaluated thoroughly by a Multi-Functional team who jointly assess the case before making a decision. Lastly, two UN agencies provide cash assistance in the Left Bank -UNHCR and IOM. Each one targets different people, using a digital system that avoids duplication of assistance.</p> <p>Considering the coming holidays period, the IAC Unit will share a poll via email so that LRCF members choose the date that suits them for the next meeting.</p>	
6. AOB	NTR	