Basic Needs Working Group Meeting

Meeting Minutes

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<tr><td>Introduction and Overview of Situation</td><td>

2.8 M cumulative arrivals since 24 Feb to 22 April 2022. (BG data)
19,900 total arrivals on 21 Apr (vs. 22,300 on 20 Apr) (BG data).
On 21 April, 23,600 people crossed the border from Poland into Ukraine (BG data) with a total of cross border movements of 802,000 people since 24 February. In the past week, there has been a significant increase in the average daily crossings from Poland to Ukraine especially observed at Medyka and Kroscienko BCPs. This may partially be due to Orthodox Easter observed in Ukraine this coming weekend.
No demographic data is currently available on those crossing into Ukraine.
Trends are within the average range of 20,000 to 25,000 arrivals since 28 March with a few variations.
Continued border-crossing movements expected to continue based on the situation in Ukraine.
Registration: Ukrainian citizens continue to register for a PESEL to have access to services. As of 20 April, according to Poland’s Office for Foreigners 971,549 Ukrainian citizens have registered for the national PESEL number allowing them access to services such as health and social support.
UNHCR Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance: 1,289 individuals (618 families) were enrolled on 21 April, bringing the total number of enrolled so far to 31,576 individuals (14,691 families). Next location planned to be as Poznan.
Booking.com/Hilton partnership: As a follow up to the meeting undertaken last week organized by UNHCR with the participation of Booking.com, Hilton and the Shelter Partners, the

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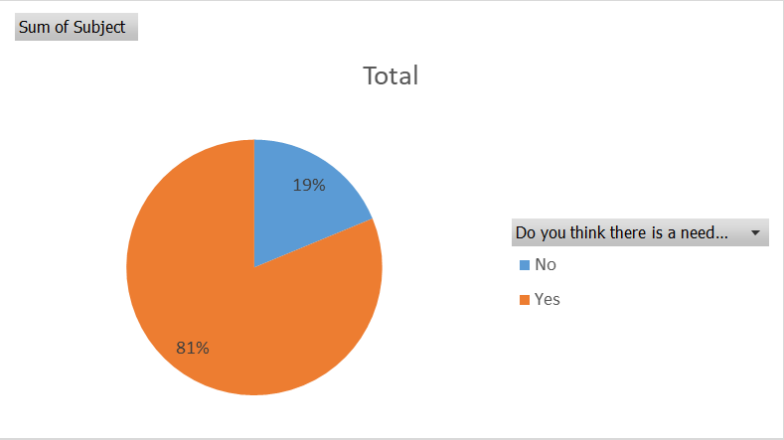
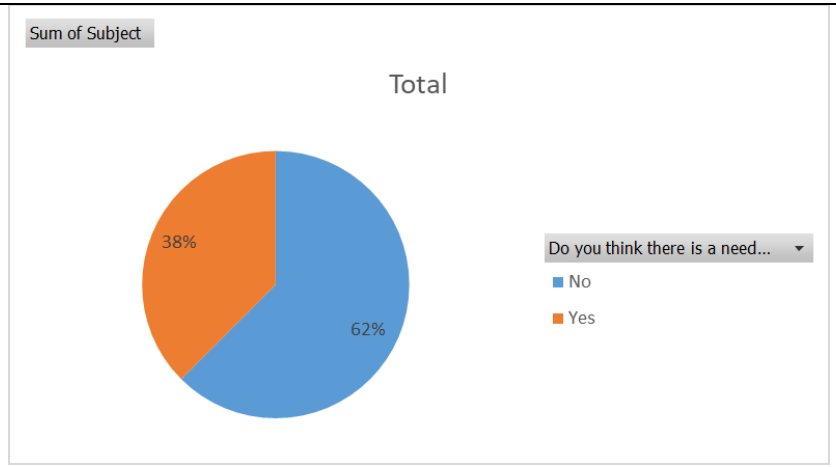
	application and acknowledgment form was shared with the Shelter Partners working in Poland asking them to confirm their interest to participate to the short-term accommodation scheme and acknowledge the terms and conditions of the scheme • The Family and Social Policy Minister had announced at a press conference that 30,000 Ukrainian citizens had so far taken up work in Poland. • Over 174,000 Ukrainian children are enrolled in Polish schools and kindergartens according to the Deputy Minister of Education on 7 April.
Updates on Main Findings and Challenges on NFI	• Oxfam shared that the organization is keeping track of NFI and hygiene item distribution at the Przemysl Tesco to better manage stock.
Updates on Main Findings and Challenges on Shelter	• Habitat for Humanity shared updates on the functioning of their accommodation matching point at the Warsaw East train station. It has been observed that some beneficiaries placed in solidarity housing have begun returning to the matching point for a second time. Beneficiaries state this is because time has elapsed, and hosting families no longer have the capacity to act as hosts. These beneficiaries are searching for long term accommodation solutions. Habitat observed that this may be the beginning of a larger trend. • Habitat for Humanity shared that government financial subsidies of 40 PLN/day for hosting families may be extended. The current payment of 40 PLN/day for 60 days may be extended to 120 days. It was further observed that this may prolong the solidarity housing model. Habitat also shared that the municipal authorities are beginning to look for local solutions. On 8-9 May a meeting will take place in Wroclaw for the municipality and NGOs. This will include a round table on housing and accommodation. • UNHCR shared information on the meeting with the Deputy Mayor of Katowice on 21 April. The Deputy Mayor confirmed that local community members who had been hosting families have been expressing that they can no longer do so. As such, the municipality needs to find mid- and long-term solutions. UNHCR further observed that similar situations exist in Lublin and in Krakow. • Alight provided an update on programs for booking short term accommodation. Alight has established a partnership with Airbnb.org through which short term housing can be booked for up to 30 days. Through the partnership there are a certain number of humanitarian housing credits provided through Airbnb.org. Alight

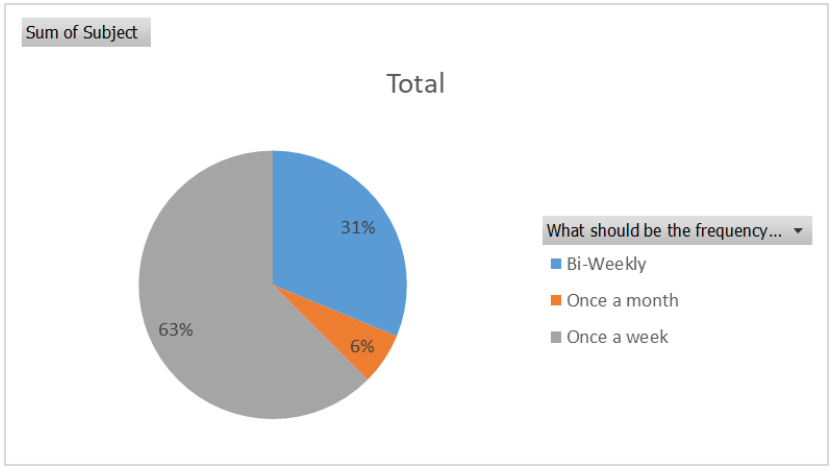
	housing guides use these credits to book accommodation for beneficiaries. Alight also partners with Uber to facilitate transport for beneficiaries who have no other transport options. All Uber drivers through the program are vetted by local authorities or by the government. Alight also shared that last week a program provided through Hilton and Booking.com had been finalized. Through this program referring organizations can book hotel rooms for beneficiaries for up to 15 days. • IOM provided an update on accommodation programming. Around 70 apartments for families had so far been booked through a partnership with Airbnb.org. A recurring concern has been affordability. The average cost for a one-month booking has been 2,700 USD. As such, IOM is in the preliminary stages of implementing a new housing strategy. This will include: (1) the creation of new housing units through rehabilitation of buildings (2) extending existing arrangements through the direct assistance to hosting families (3) extending rental assistance for up to six months. It is still unclear whether this will be done through IOM or through partners. • Our Choice Foundation shared that the Foundation continues to run a solidarity housing matching program. The Foundation maintains a database of people in need of accommodation. This is continually growing. The Foundation further confirmed a growing trend of beneficiaries for returning for housing matching after a period with a host family had elapsed. As such, the Foundation is beginning to shift focus to mid- and long-term housing. The Foundation is also planning to make an appeal to host families to provide more spaces; however, it was highlighted that this is a short-term solution. • NRC shared an update about operations of the NRC transit site at the Warsaw East train station. They have served over 15,000 people so far. However, number of arrivals is dropping. NRC also helps individuals returning to Ukraine. At the site refugees receive information about available accommodations through partners operating at the site, who refer them to different accommodation options. NRC also asked a question about the short-term accommodation provided through Hilton and Booking.com. The accommodation is for a maximum of 15 days; as such, NRC asked who is responsible for the refugees after the two weeks have passed, ex. if they have not left the hotel by the time the booking ends. • UNHCR clarified that the Hilton program is meant to be a short-term accommodation scheme. It works well for beneficiaries who are travelling further and need accommodation for one or two nights. For beneficiaries who

	are not on transit, but are waiting for transition or long-term accommodation, the NGOs should be looking for the alternative while the family stays at Hilton. The accommodation scheme gives referring organizations 15 days to search for longer housing. As such, it was highlighted that once a family is places in Hilton accommodation, the referring organization should use this time to look for longer term solutions in coordination with the local authorities, UNHCR and NGOs. UNHCR is reaching out to the Ministry of Interior, regional and local authorities to inquire about the longer-term accommodation scheme and see how the Shelter Sector can align to the governmental strategy and support its implementation. • Alight highlighted that shelter cannot be incorporated in a vacuum. Protection must also be mainstreamed into urban housing and urban shelter. When families are placed in accommodation organizations should conduct follow up calls. Alight further highlighted that in the partnership program with Airbnb.org an alarm service exists though which individuals can alert local authorities. • UNHCR suggested that a focus could be placed on greater publicity of accommodation opportunities available in smaller towns and villages. Local officials have highlighted that there are job ad housing opportunities in these locations, but people do not want to relocate there. • Alight added that the organization is preparing online housing guides for small to medium towns. Alight is also preparing an online tool where beneficiaries can check opportunities in smaller towns and villages. • According to a poll, most sector meeting participants approved of the need for separate shelter sector meetings
Updates on Main Findings and Challenges on WASH	• Medair shared that they do not have updates on the WASH situation at the Tesco and train station in Przemysl as this is the responsibility of Oxfam. • Oxfam shared that they are trying to improve the blanket and sheet washing system at the Przemysl Tesco. Oxfam is also trying to improve the hand washing situation. • Alight shared that Alight and Ecolab have provided ten hand sanitizing stations at Medyka border crossing. These are positioned near food stations and food trucks. Ecolab has committed to ensuring the supply chain of

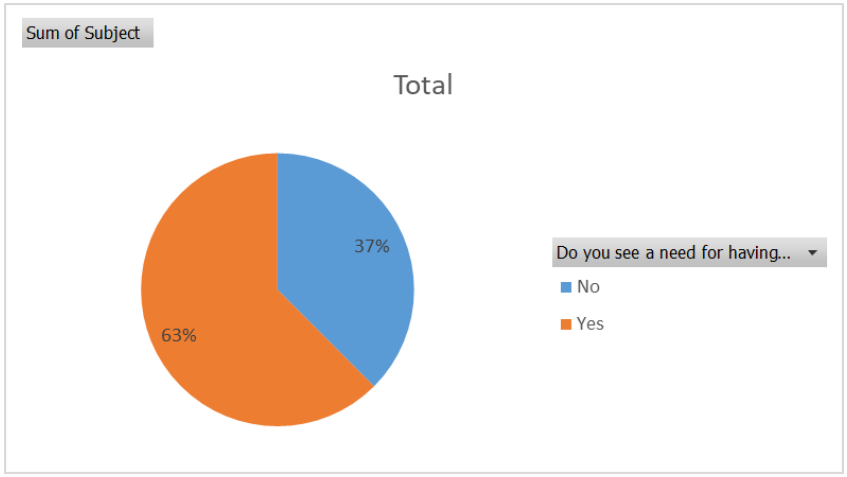
	alcohol solution refills. It was added that if demand exists it is possible to expand this to other border crossings.
Updates on Main Findings and Challenges on Food Security	• Multicultural Center Krakow stated as an observation that food security remains the biggest problem for organizations working in Krakow. They further noted that in Krakow only 2,000 people receiving support from the Voivodeship. Last week Salam Lab itself spent 100,000 PLN on food and this was not sufficient. It has been observed that the same big group visits Salam Lab for food each day. As such, they will begin verifying the needs of individuals coming for food.
AOB	• Link for the meeting minutes. https://data2.unhcr.org/en/working-group/307?sv=54&geo=10781 • Result of the questionnaire *Do you think there is a need for separate shelter sector meetings?*  *Do you think there is a need for separate WASH sector meetings?*



What should be the frequency of the sectoral meetings?



Do you see a need for having vertical coordination division, i.e., Establishment of Sub Sectoral Meetings solely focusing on Malopolskie (Krakow), Podkarpackie (Rzeszow) and Lubelski (Lublin) regions?

	
Next meeting	▪ Next Basic Needs Working Group meeting is scheduled to take place on 29 April 2022 at 3pm.

ACTION POINTS SUMMARY

No.	Action	Responsible
1.		