Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

Coordination meeting

MINUTES

Date: 15.11.2022 (Tuesday)
Time: 11:00 – 14:00
Place: Lublin Voivoidship Office in Lublin, column room

The main points of the agenda

Actual situation in the context of reception of refugees in Lubelskie voivodeship – LUW in Lublin
Lech Sprawka - The Lubelskie Province Governor The voivode presented the way of organizing assistance to refugees from Ukraine in the Lublin province, statistical data on refugees, the necessary measures to be taken to adequately prepare for the increased influx of refugees. The governor emphasized the role of non-governmental organizations as natural and important partners in the activities undertaken for refugees in Lublin province. He also expressed his approval of the accession of the government administration from the level of the Governor to the Lublin Coordination Group and stressed its importance as a platform for cooperation and coordination. - NGO's are a natural and expected partner in the activities undertaken for refugees in Lubelskie Voivodeship. Creating a platform for cooperation and coordination is an excellent idea. The Lublin Voivode accepts the accession of government administration from the level of the Voivode to the Lublin Coordination Group. - More than 3 million refugees have arrived in the Lublin region since February 24, 2022. During the months of September-October, an average of 300-500 people per day. - In the last few days, the numbers have increased slightly: 13.11 - 900 people, 14.11 - 570 people. We are also seeing a slight increase in people at Reception Points. - We observe a higher number of people being taken care of at the four Reception Points, particularly in Hrubieszów (a point run by the city of Hrubieszów and a point run by the Starostvo). - Reduction in the total number of people registered in the PESEL system. October - 65 thousand people. 15.11 - 41 thousand people. One of the reasons for the reduction is that after returning to Ukraine, people are automatically deregistered after 30 days. The second reason: migration from the Lublin Voivodeship to countries in Western Europe. - Collective shelters: 15.11 - 4.5 thousand people in the entire Lublin region. In October, a decreasing trend was observed. Currently a slight increase. Reasons: completion of seasonal work, returns to Ukraine related to lack of access to the labor market, leaving housing provided by private individuals, high inflation, and related insufficient financial support of PLN 40 for hosts. - A very important priority is to assist in the activation and empowerment of refugees, as well as diversified humanitarian assistance at various levels. A variety of activities aimed at people living in collective shelters.

- Internally displaced persons in Ukraine in the Volyn (70-80 thousand), Lviv (250 thousand) regions. The difference is due to the fact that internally displaced persons fear an attack from Belarus and therefore choose the Lviv area.
- The most urgent needs currently reported by the Ukrainian side: warm clothing units, heated tents, replacement residence infrastructure.
- Priorities from the point of view of the government administration in Poland: constant readiness to develop and activate reception points; greater cooperation with NGOs regarding the operation of reception points and accommodation missions; much better thought-out organization of "towns" at border crossings; ensuring the operation of 8 reception centers; ensuring the development of permanent accommodation.
- LUW is asking for suggestions from NGO's on the characteristics of the tasks that NGO's would accept for implementation as tasks commissioned by the government administration.
- Transport of refugees from border crossings to reception points and from reception points to other locations coordinated by LUW through the PSP.
- Projections of the Polish Government: possible influx of 800,000 people in to PL during the winter months.

Current activities and preparation for a potential influx of refugees in Lublin province - LUW in Lublin / UNHCR

Robert Gmitruczuk – Deputy Governor of Lubelskie Province

The Deputy Governor presented three scenarios for the influx of Refugees, related to the hostilities in Ukraine.

- The Ukrainian army's redeployment and recapture of land in eastern Ukraine should, in theory, reduce the flow of refugees to Poland. However, forecasts indicate that stabilization on the frontline will not happen anytime soon.
- Three scenarios:
  1 – As the Ukrainian army moves eastward, the influx of refugees into Poland is decreasing.
  2 – Eastern Ukraine is located in a climate zone with lower temperatures. The hostilities are increasing the number of internally displaced people and refugees fleeing to Western Europe.
  3 – Russian army troops are receding from the southeastern part of Ukraine, but are being redeployed to Belarus, which at the same time poses a threat to the Lublin Voivodeship. If weather conditions worsen, there will be an intensive influx of refugees into Lublin Voivodeship.
- Number of places available in collective shelters: 7131. number of occupied places as of 15.11 - 4457. difference - 2734.
- Activation of an additional 3,500 places of collective shelter in the Lublin province within 72 h.
- The example of the situation observed in Moldova and Romania shows that refugees will move to Western Europe, not Eastern Europe.
- It is probable that the influx of refugees from Africa and the Middle East is a coordinated effort by the Russian Federation.
- On the territory of the Lublin Voivodeship more than 41 thousand registered PESEL numbers. About 36 thousand citizens of Ukraine hosted in private homes in Lubelskie Voivodeship.

Bolesław Gzik – II Deputy Governor of Lubelskie Province

- Assessing the strategic and operational situation is extremely difficult due to the disinformation present in the public space.
- Humanitarian aid should be directed as a priority to Ukraine.
- 8 information points organized by LUW in the Lublin region. Until the month of September, there were 2 Information Points at each border crossing.
- 6 reception points. 2 points (Zamość and Chełm) have been suspended temporarily. Chełm - 400 beds, Hrubieszów HOSIR - 350 beds, Hrubieszów School Group - 200 beds, Tomaszów Lubelski - 700 beds.
- Reception points in Zamość and Chełm can be activated within 48 hours.

Marco Procaccini – Head of Field Office UNHCR in Lublin

- As UNHCR, we fully support this coordination platform, but also continue logistical support and monthly meetings in a similar configuration. We are ready to support the development of this platform to include and invite other stakeholders. The diversity of stakeholders at the table, including local authorities may represent an added value for a space of this nature
- In case of new influx, based on the previous data we expect that 44% of the total number of refugees will potentially arrive in Lublin Voivodeship using one of the four border crossings (Dorohusk, Zosin, Dołhobyczów, Hrebenne). Dorohusk - 14%, Zosin - 8%, Dołhobyczów - 8%, Hrebenne - 15%.
- Emergency planning workshops organized in Chełm, Hrubieszów and Tomaszow Lubelski. The result of the workshop is the creation of a document - Emergency Plan for each border city.
- Coordination system at the national level: ISCG Intersectoral Coordination Group (meetings every 2 weeks). Coordination meetings with UNHCR partners (meetings every 2 weeks). Podkarpackie Coordination Group (meetings every month).
- Delivery of humanitarian aid items to LUW: 30 thousand + 20 thousand on the way (blankets, mattresses, beds, hygiene kits, sleeping bags).
- Conducting border monitoring. Weekly visits to all border crossings with Ukraine in Lublin Province.
  - Donation of laptops for MOPR in Lublin. Donation of laptops and storage space for MOPR in Chełm. Donation on rental basis of a heated container for the Dorohusk border crossing to Caritas Lublin.
- Conducting research and assessing the needs and intentions of refugees in the Lublin province by the Protection Monitors team.
- Meeting on the labor market organized in cooperation with WUP, PUP and MUP in Lublin - mid-December.

Felicia Byrne - UNHCR

- Conducting Service Mapping - an online tool collecting available services and services for refugees in Lublin and selected cities of Lublin province. Document continuously updated in Polish, Ukrainian and English. Service mapping available to UNHCR partners and cooperating institutions.
  Link to service mapping:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1OtpS2zEBlNwEXWbs3a0bklATVrrDY9FXg5ebXu2Zchg/edit#gid=0

Current activities undertaken by key organizations in the Lublin Voivodeship

Maciej Budka – Lublin Branch of the Polish Red Cross

- PCK is part of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Half Moon Societies.
- Since the beginning of the war, the LOO PCK has been developing logistical skills.
- 7,000 square meters of storage space used for international and refugee operations in the Lublin region.
- More than 150 humanitarian transports sent to Ukraine. More than 1,200 tons of food aid, hygiene, medical equipment and supplies.
- 500 tons of material aid donated to refugees in Lublin Voivodeship.
- PLN 20 million used to help refugees in the Lublin region.
- The aid went to some 500,000 people on both sides of the border.
- Cash assistance program - 1,000 households.
- Special needs fund for non-standard expenses.
- Long-term activities - making refugees independent in Lubelskie Voivodeship (assistance in finding employment and housing), vocational courses, assistance in childcare.
- 3 integration centers - Biłgoraj, Zamość, Włodawa. Day care centers - Chełm, Lubartów.

Monika Korowajczyk – Sujkowska – IOM Poland

- IOM is the United Nations agency for migration. It has been working with various entities in Poland in the field of migration management for 20 years
- IOM focuses on 4 areas of migration management: migration and development, facilitating migration, regulating migration, and responding to forced migration.
- 20% of the refugees are currently housed in collective shelters.
- IOM has its closest office in the Podkarpackie region and in Warsaw.
- IOM encourages local NGOs to benefit from the experience and knowledge of international NGOs and UN agencies.

Grzegorz Podgórski – Caritas of the Zamość-Lubaczów Archdiocese

- Caritas recently opened a Center for Assistance to Migrants and Refugees and Migrants in Zamosc, which provides, among other things, material support, support in finding work, finding housing, legal assistance, psychological assistance, financial assistance.
- The center operates a Protective Shelter for the youngest, where parents can leave their children and take care of their own private affairs during the day.
- Transports and humanitarian aid convoys sent to Ukraine from the 3rd day of the conflict. At the peak, 2-3 truckloads a day were sent. Caritas is working with partners and parishes in Ukraine.
- Caritas was present at the Hrebenne border crossing, where it provided support to refugees crossing the border. The point is currently suspended. Activation is possible within 48 hours.
- Work is based primarily on long-term volunteering. In contrast, the Center in Zamość employs primarily people from Ukraine.

Tomasz Sieniow – The Rule of Law Institute

- Work in the office from Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Legal advice provided by stationary, e-mail and telephone. Hotline in Polish, Ukrainian, Russian and English.
- Legal advice is also provided at the Community Center run by HF.
- The organization is part of the Lublin Social Committee for Assistance to Ukraine.
- Legal support provided as part of mobile teams visiting places of collective accommodation jointly with HF and PCPM.
- Monitoring of events within the legislative changes.
- Organization of legal training for entities assisting refugees.
- The Foundation does not currently receive funding from the state. Funding from UNHCR, IRC, DRC, among others.
- Support provided to those in closed centers and those detained while crossing the border.
- 20 employees. Lawyers knowledgeable in migration law supported by translators and volunteers.

Marta Brożyna – Lena Grochowska Foundation

- The foundation has been operating since 2017. It is affiliated with the Arche group.
- Since the first day of the conflict, the foundation, together with the Arche group, has provided 190,000 free overnight stays.
- The organization runs 6 Refugee Houses in Poland. At the moment, 1,300 people. Accommodated are mostly women with children.
- In Lublin, the foundation runs the Refugee House on Lubartowska Street. At the moment 130 places. The building is provided by the Medical University
- The foundation conducts study support, helps obtain medical care, conducts integration activities.
- The NGO cooperates with LUW, PCK, and the Lublin Social Committee for Ukraine, among others.

Barbara Adamczyk Sosnowy – Voivodeship Labour Office in Lublin

- Number of unemployed persons from Ukraine - 1200 (by the end 50% of registered persons in Lublin.
- The great majority of people do not specify their occupation. Most occupations are simple.
- Most of the work undertaken by Ukrainian citizens is seasonal.
- A total of 18,500 registered hires.
- Voivodship Labour Office in Lublin contacts employers informing them of opportunities and rules for hiring Ukrainian citizens.
- It is possible to receive business start-up grants for people from Ukraine.
- It is planned to establish an Integration Center in Lublin for citizens of third countries, including people from Ukraine.

Anna Dąbrowska – Homo Faber

- From an organization that had a few people before the conflict began, it has grown to nearly 80 people + 50 volunteers.
- HF runs Community Center, which provides direct information assistance, legal consultation, psychological support, intervention housing, mapping services in Lublin. To date, just under 2,000 people have visited the point.
- Conducting mobile points. Trips on Fridays to places of collective accommodation centers outside Lublin together with The Rule of Law Institute.
- Running hotline operated in Polish, English, Ukrainian, Russian, Belarusian. Received 20,000 calls to date.
- Conducting intercultural assistance and assisting refugees in dealing with everyday issues.
- Organization of Polish language courses. 12 groups - adults, children and youth. At present, 180 people on courses.
- Volunteers present at places of collective accommodation shelters in Lublin and at the bus station.
- Oxfam co-funded food program. Delivery of fresh products, fruits, vegetables and dairy products. 10,000 parcels delivered, 120 tons of food delivered in Lublin and sub-Lublin municipalities.
- Psychological assistance in Ukrainian and Russian languages, individual and group. Supervision for employees and volunteers.
- Scholarship program for talented children and adults. Supporting more than 200 individuals.
- Running a multilingual library. 7,000 books in stock.

Elie Keldany – Polish Center for International Aid (PCPM)

- PCPM is the largest Polish NGO in terms of annual cash flow and the number of field missions providing overseas humanitarian and development assistance.
- PCPM conducts direct financial support for refugees in Lubelskie Voivodeship.
- By September, 6,000 people had been registered for the financial support program.
- PCPM co-finances employment of Ukrainian teachers in the city of Lublin - more than 70 people.
- The PCPM financially supported the Summer in the City campaign and organization of 15 integration picnics, which were attended by more than 5,000 people.
- PCPM operates Back to School information hotline, which was launched in mid-August to help Ukrainian parents find schools and other educational facilities for their children.
- As of September 1, 2022, PCPM Medical Rescue Team operates a medical transit center for the sick and injured from Ukraine, located in Rzeszow.
- PCPM organizes transports with humanitarian aid and medical supplies to several regions in Ukraine, including Zaporizhia, Turka, Borynya.

Father Mieczysław Puzewicz – Wolontariat Center in Lublin

- Wolontariat Center runs Homes of Hope for refugees based on the integration model that CW has been developing for many years.

- About 400 refugees currently are in an integration program.
- 186 volunteers
- 4,700 refugees have benefited from the assistance.
- There are currently 10 Homes of Hope in operation.
- The main areas of support for refugees offered by CW: housing vouchers, vocational courses, Polish language classes (currently 6 groups, 150 people), psychological assistance (70 people), legal support, assistance, running a day care center for children, support in purchasing medicines and medical supplies, integration meetings (to date, more than 1,000 people have attended meetings), partnership of Polish and refugee families (12 families), Ukrainian culture school.

Małgorzata Romanko – Regional Center of Social Policy in Lublin

- The provincial government has allocated funds entitled Lubelskie helps Ukraine.
- Free training in the basics of the Polish language.
  - Advice on how to deal with daily life issues.
- Participation in current EU projects, such as those in the labor market, childcare provision, social inclusion, or education, Social and livelihood counseling.
- Support in the field of implemented out-of-competition projects of Poviat Labor Offices

Activities to be done

- The Terms of Reference of the Lublin Coordination Group will be sent for consultation to the participants. At the next coordination meeting, an official Declaration of Participation will be signed.
- Request to send to LUW information about actions to be taken, to strengthen the integration process of refugees.

Participants

Organization/ Institution
Archdiocese Zamojsko – Lubaczowska Caritas
Wolontariat Center in Lublin
Fundation of Lena Grochowska
Rule of Law Institute
IOM Poland
Lublin Branch of the Polish Red Cross
LUW in Lublin
German Red Cross
PCPM
Regional Center for Social Policy in Lublin
Homo Faber Association
UNHCR
Voivodeship Labour Office in Lublin