Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

Coordination meeting

MINUTES

Date: 16.02.2023 (Thursday)
Time: 11 a.m. – 1.15 p.m.
Place: Lublin Voivoidship Office in Lublin, column room

The main points of the agenda

Introduction and opening remarks

Boleslaw Gzik – Voivodeship Office in Lublin

- Accommodation in reception points, as of February 16, 2023: Chelm (3 persons), Hrubieszow (10 persons), Tomaszow Lubelski (0).
- The refugee reception situation in relation to contingency plans related to a potential influx of refugees is stable. No increased influx of refugees was observed in 2023.

Marco Procaccini - UNHCR

- It is a very good idea to create information points, which will be established in the coming weeks, run by LUW in the cities of Lublin, Chelm, Zamosc, Biala Podlaska, primarily with a view to extending support to refugees living outside the city of Lublin.
- UNHCR would like to take this opportunity to appreciate the initiative of UNICEF and the City of Lublin to create integration places in 19 schools in Lublin, as well as Baobab, which is run by Homo Faber and the City of Lublin.
- On February 20, a distribution of clothes will begin, led by UNHCR, in which people living in places of collective accommodation in the voivodeship will receive a jacket and two sweaters, a total of about 2,500 people.
- We are seeing an increased need for activities in areas such as integration, social inclusion, economic inclusion, and participation, especially in locations outside of major cities and in places of collective shelters, where support, services, and accessibility to services are limited.
- On February 15, the Regional Response Plan 2023 was presented in Geneva. The plan covers activities from January to December 2023 and outlines a multi-sector response strategy, the financial needs of 243 different partners supporting host governments in Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. The presentation of the chapter dedicated to Poland has been scheduled for February 23 (83 partners).

  Link to RRP 2023, chapter dedicated to Poland:
  English version: Document - Poland Chapter: Ukraine Situation Regional Refugee Response Plan 2023 (unhcr.org)
  Polish version: Document - Polska: Regionalny Plan Działań Na Rzecz Uchodźców z Ukrainy 2023 (unhcr.org)

UNHCR Protection Sector updates in Lublin Voivoidship

Felicia Byrne – UNHCR

- Information on profiles and needs of refugees collected from interviews with refugees conducted in places of collective accommodation, bus stations, railway stations, reception points, NGO offices - 3,681 people in Lublin voivodeship in July 2022 - January 2023, new tool introduced on November 21, 2022 - 1,522 people, 375 people interviewed since the last coordination meeting.
- Language spoken by refugees: Ukrainian - 99.7%, Russian - 80.7%, English - $22.6%, Polish - 21.5%.
- 5 most common oblasts from where refugees come: 13.3% - Kiev, 12.4% - Kharkiv, Volyn - 11.1%, Dnipropetrovsk - 8%, Zhytomyr - 5.2%.
- Education of refugees in Lubelskie Voivodeship: higher education - 49.6%, secondary - 27.9%, technical or vocational - 21.3%, supplementary higher education - 0.5%, primary - 0.3%.
- Employment in Ukraine: employed - 53.1%, retired - 15.9%, family responsibilities - 12.8%, student - 5.8%, self-employed - 5.8%, unemployed - 5.4%, other - 0.7%, will not answer - 0.1%.
- Employment in Poland: employed - 27.2%, retired - 20.2%, Family responsibilities - 19.6%, student - 6.6%, self-employed - 4.2%, unemployed - 2.8%, other - 0.9%, prefers not to answer - 0.1%.
- Challenges related to health care: long waiting times for appointments, language barrier, fees associated with the purchase of medicines, medical facilities refuse to provide services, lack of information about access to the health care system.
- Challenges in finding a job: inability to find a decent job, language barrier, no plans to stay in Poland.
- Available childcare: No - 47%, Yes - 43%, Don't know - 8%, Prefers not to answer - 2%.
- School enrollment: All children - 61%, No - 31%, Yes, some children - 5%, Don't know - 2%, Prefers not to answer - 1%.
- Have you traveled to Ukraine - Never - 70%, Yes, only once - 15%, Yes, sometimes (2-4 times) - 14%, Yes, often (5+ times) - 1%, Prefers not to answer - 1%. If yes (29%), why: To visit family/friends in Ukraine - 73%, to check property - 20%, to get documents -0 14%, to check situation - 14%, for medical support - 14%.

Labor market in Lublin Voivodeship

Current information on employment of refugees in Lubelskie Voivodeship - Andrzej Pruszkowski - WUP in Lublin

- Citizens of Ukraine can use the services of labor offices in the form of, among others, job councelling, vocational courses and training - on the same basis as Polish citizens. They can also obtain the status of an unemployed person, which allows them to take advantage of the full catalog of forms of assistance specified in the Law on Employment Promotion and labor market institutions.

- Citizens of Ukraine in the registers of Lublin labor offices in January 2023 - 1019 people, including women 890 people.
- The largest number of employed foreigners in 2022 was in the Mazowieckie Voivodeship - 19%, Wielkopolskie Voivodeship - 12%, Dolnoslaskie Voivodeship - 11%. Employment based on citizenship (until October 31, 2022): Ukraine - 68%, Belarus - 10%, Georgia - 7%, Moldova - 2%, India - 2%, Uzbekistan - 1%, Turkey - 1%, Philippines - 1%, Russia - 1%, Nepal - 1%, others - 5%.
- 2/3 of foreigners perform work in Poland on the basis of a regular contract, 1/3 on the basis of an casual contract, other forms of employment are a small percentage. 85% of issued documents legalizing the work of a foreigner are issued for a period of more than 180 days.
- In 2022, 10,287 applications for seasonal work permits were received in the records of the labor offices of Lublin Voivodeship, of which 9469 were for citizens of Ukraine.
- By the end of January 2023, notifications on the assignment of work to Ukrainian citizens were submitted to the municipal and district labor offices of Lublin Voivodeship for 21,588 Ukrainian citizens. Most notifications in Lublin, Chelm, Biała Podlaska, Opole Lubelskie and Bilgoraj.
- Labor market tools and services aimed at refugees:
  https://psz.praca.gov.pl/pomocdlaukrainy
  https://eures.praca.gov.pl/europejska-pula-talentow-pomoc-dla-ukrainy
  https://eures.ec.europa.eu/eu-talent-pool-pilot_en
  https://poland.iom.int/pl/micro/legalna-praca-w-polsce

Summary of the Polish-Ukrainian Job Meeting in Lublin - Kamil Raczynski – UNHCR

- General information: 890 exhibitors, 500 job offers, 419 interviews.
- - Participants/attendees: 306 people, 132 registered at the registration desk (129 - Ukraine, 2 - Belarus, 1 - Poland), 584 job offers, 84 people accepted the job offer, 60 people took advantage of the support point in preparing and printing of CVs.
- Employers evaluation: 43.7% rated the event GOOD, 41.6% rated the event VERY good, 10.42% rated the event EXTREMELY good, 6.25% rated the event bad, 89.58% declared that the event met their expectations, 87.5% would recommend the event to other employers.

Good practices on economic inclusion of refugees - Amadeus March - UNHCR

- Center for Women's Entrepreneurship (KAGIDEM), Gaziantep, Turkey, kagidem.com
  - Startup for Refugees, Finland, startuprefugees.com
  - Integreat app, Germany, integreat-app.de
  - Local administration toolkit, kit components: printable guide, interactive online guide, animated explanatory video, self-assessment tools, UNHCR,
  https://www.unhcr.org/effective-inclusion-of-refugees.html

Ewa Baturo - IKEA

- Ikea in cooperation with the Ocalenie Foundation - has launched an internship program for refugees in 2022. The program will continue in 2023.

- 52 internship positions at five IKEA stores in four cities: Warsaw (in Janki and Targówek), Lodz, Krakow and Gdansk, with the possibility of employment after the program ends.

Connecting job seekers and employers - Wiktoria Herun - Department of Strategy and Entrepreneurship, Lublin UM

- A tool connecting employers and Ukrainian citizens looking for work was launched in early March 2022: - - Gospodarczy Lublin
- Employers submit job offers via the link: Oferty pracy dla obywateli Ukrainy (google.com) All offers will be translated into Ukrainian and eventually (along with contact information) posted on the website.
- Citizens of Ukraine can submit a job search via the link: Oferty pracy dla obywateli Ukrainy (google.com)
- Municipality of Lublin also posts job offers for highly skilled individuals in cooperation with companies. Example of overqualification of 42 female employees with English language skills. A major challenge is to accommodate flexible work arrangements and remote work. UM Lublin is coming out with courses and trainings, including how to start a business, workshops on creative industries.
- From March 2022, 330 offers for more than 1,300 jobs, 1,638 people registered.
- Most offers from industries: medical, IT, beauty, construction. Most job seekers from industries: education (teachers), accounting, psychology, office work, law, IT, pharmacy, medicine.

Magdalena Wojno – IOM

- IOM is conducting a nationwide survey on Ukrainian citizens' skills, needs and abilities, in the context of job search, breakdown by voivodeships. The survey is being conducted in cooperation with the UW University. The results should be ready in March 2023.
- Meeting of the Intersectoral Roundtable to Support Labor Market Integration of Temporary Protected Persons from Ukraine in Poland -1 March 2023. The meeting will focus on social economy and youth labor market
- IOM has developed a website aimed at Ukrainian citizens with tools to connect employers and job seekers, along with legal issues. Details: Legalna praca | IOM Poland

Preparations for the entry into force of the amended Law on Assistance to Citizens of Ukraine in Reference with the Armed Conflict on the Territory of that State from the perspective of local governments and LUW in Lublin – Voivodeship Office

Andrzej Osipowski – Voivodeship Office in Lublin

- The number of people covered by the law, living in collective shelters is between 4,500 and 4,700 people.
- VO in Lublin, together with local municipalities, has begun assessing the situation of people living in places of collective accommodation to see how many people will qualify for exclusion

from the housing cost participation. The deadline for submitting comments and numbers and scale to VO in Lublin was set for February 17, 2023.

- According to LUW's estimates, about 70% of people using collective accommodation will be excluded from cost participation.
- The biggest challenge, which at the same time raises some doubts, is the rationale for the disadvantaged. LUW and the starosts, which run the places of accommodation on behalf of the Lublin Governor, will analyze in detail any rationale for excluding individuals from payment. Further steps will be planned after analyzing the data sent by local governments.

Current activities undertaken by the Polish Red Cross Lublin Regional Branch

Malgorzata Kruszewska – Polish Red Cross Information and Search Bureau

- PRC operates an Information and Search Office, which is in close cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross in Geneva. The office of the PRC in Lublin employs a person dedicated to tasks related to restoring family links activities I Lubelskie.
- Criteria for accepting applications for the conflict on the territory of Ukraine: Loss of contact related to the conflict, The searcher is in the territory of Poland, The searcher is a family member.
- How to apply for a search for a family member? Write to dres tracing.service@pck.pl, come to the headquarters of the National Information and Search Bureau or contact the local branch of the PCK (www.pck.lublin.pl).
- What happens next? A staff member of the National Information and Search Bureau will contact the beneficiary and arrange an interview; Depending on the possibilities, the interview will be conducted in person, online or over the phone; The person will be invited to the PCK branch; During a meeting of about an hour, we will explain all the procedures and fill out a search application, which will then be sent to the Office of the Central Search Agency

Maciej Budka – Polish Red Cross Lublin Regional Branch

- Operational Program Food Aid 2014-2020 (POPŻ) - is co-financed by the European Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD).
- In 2022, the program was able to reach 3,138 people in Lublin Province, including 1,378 people in Lublin alone. PRC Local Branches in Lublin Voivodeship served 427 Ukrainian citizens by issuing 8.5 tons of food. Local Partner Organizations (Social Welfare Centers and Associations) served 1,333 Ukrainian citizens issuing 27 tons of food.
- Distribution of food in 2023 should begin in the months of March / April, depending on the timing of the start of deliveries. Parcels in Lublin are issued at Puchacza 6 and Bursaki 17.
- Criteria: persons and families in a difficult life situation meeting the criteria indicated in Article 7 of the Law on Social Assistance, whose income does not exceed 220% of the relevant income criterion for eligibility for social assistance. i.e. no more than: PLN 1707.20 for a single person, PLN 1320 for a person in a family.
- In order to obtain a referral to receive support in the form of food packages, one should apply to the Social Assistance Center appropriate to the place of residence.

New place on a map of Lublin – Baobab – Homo Faber
Anna Dabrowska - Homo Faber - Baobab, located at Krakowskie Przedmieście 39b Street, began operations in January 2023 (the official opening is scheduled for February 28). - The name "Bobab" refers to the distinctive tree that grew in Lithuanian Square in Lublin and was associated for many years with a meeting place. Baobab for different cultures also means a safe meeting space. - A place that, by design, is intended to serve all residents of Lublin, with a special focus on migrants and refugees. - Activities: Info desk, hotline, co-working space, playground, multicultural library, meeting place, concerts and lectures, psychological counseling for children, psychological counseling for adults, legal counseling, speech therapist, community center, women's circles, workshop, light workshop, classroom, meeting room, kitchen, music room, heavy workshop, Plasta community center. - Partners: the City of Lublin, UNHCR, Danish Refugee Council, Rule of Law Institute Foundation, IKEA Poland, Google Poland.
Discussion
- Establishing a working group on economic inclusion. The first meeting of the group will be held before the next meeting of the Lublin Coordination Group. At the LGK meeting in March, the assumptions of the group's functioning will be presented. - Organization of events on the labor market and job search, which will be held in smaller locations (district towns) outside Lublin. UNHCR will be responsible for the organization in cooperation with the relevant labor offices.
Action points
- Contact between the Lena Grochowska Foundation and the Municipal Labor Office in Lublin to assess the possibility of organizing courses and vocational training for refugees accommodated in the Refugee House in Lublin. - Organization of the first meeting of the Working Group on Economic Inclusion.
Participants
Organization/ Institution
Voivodeship Office in Lublin
UNHCR
Volunteer Center in Lublinie
IOM
Lena Grochowska Foundation
The Rule of Law Institute
Polish Red Cross Lublin Regional Branch

Polish Red Cross Information and Search Bureau
Regional Social Policy Department
Homo Faber
Voivodeship Labor Office
St. Brother Albert Brotherhood of Charity
Muicipality of Lublin
Caritas of the Zamość-Lubaczów Archdiocese
Caritas of the Lublin Archdiocese
Soleterre
UNICEF
Save the Children
Action Against Hunger
For the Earth Association
ADRA Poland