

# **Przemyśl Reception Point Meeting**

Date: Wednesday 1st March

Time: 12:00 – 14:00

Venue: City Office in Przemyśl

# **General Discussion Highlights:**

# **Opening Remarks**

## Dariusz Łapa - City of Przemyśl:

In relation to free access to bathroom facilities for refugees at the Train Station Reception Point, have advocated to and waiting for an offer from the manager of the PKP station to potentially fund the use of the toilets. City with the co-financing of the Voivodship Office could then pay for this issue. Otherwise, per Jacek Paniw comment – the City could put mobile toilets in front of the station building.

As for opening of the Bilana (shelter) Humanitarian Center, technical acceptance of the facility is nearing completion. Today, the electrical acceptance was performed, and tomorrow the chimney inspection will take place. Next week the facility will most likely be able to open with the technical approvals complete. We, as a city, are as ready as possible to open the building in March. We have a contract with the owners of the TESCO facility signed until the end of April. Regarding the relocation of assets from TESCO to Bilana, the social section will be the first to move to the new facility, followed by the warehouse section.

### Jacek Paniw - City of Przemyśl:

General update on arrivals at Train Station – stable number except for a minor influx/correction around the 24 Feb linked to the one-year anniversary. Indeed, there has been increase in Romani arrivals and the City is trying it's best to assist them and working with new UNHCR staff member who is of Romani origin to help improve. Recently assisted #50 Romani with bus transport. Highlighted thanks to IOM for assisting with food supplies and hygiene items.

- In terms of needs <u>suitcases are needed</u> as many people arrive to Poland with belongings in plastic bags.
- Reception Point Mother and Children's Room as Medair is withdrawing, trying to find new partner to finance this critical service. The Global Christian Connection (GCC) is supporting the City to find solution. We will keep you updated.

# Response regarding need for suitcases for newly arrived refugees at Reception Poin

• Magda Kuska - IOM:

IOM purchased 3000 trolley bags that were just delivered to our warehouse and can support people with their suitcases needs at the train station immediately.

### **Action Points**

- IOM to bilaterally coordinate with Mr. Paniw for distribution of current stock of trolley bags to address needs of newly arrive, COMPLETED
- UNHCR inform Basic Need WG on need for suitcase donation for the Reception Point, COMPLETED
- City of Przemysl keep partners updated on situation for Mother and Children's Room.
- UNHCR link Toward's
   Dialogue with City authorities
   to discuss potential for
   technical assistance.



### **Response regarding Romani Community**

# • Olena Vaidalovych - Towards Dialogue Foundation:

Give thanks to authorities for the tremendous support to Ukrainian refugees in Poland, however, people belonging to the Roma minority often have problems finding shelter or getting adequate assistance. Noting the increased arrival of Romani community at the Train Station and the challenges to supporting them (may be illiterate, speak different language, etc), we would like to inform the City that Towards Dialogue has job candidates from the Roma community who can be hired by the local government or other organizations – to help facilitate engagement, inclusive access and assistance to Romani refugees. But we need more than just hiring Romani community members, thus Toward Dialogue would also be interested in cooperating with the City to strengthen assistance at the Reception Point (or other locations as necessary) – suggest a follow up discussion to identify potential opportunities.

# **Transition plan between Tesco and Bilana Shelter**

### Maciej Maruszak – PCK:

The move to the Bilana facility should take place no later than March 30 however, TESCO can still operate until the end of April to ensure a smooth transfer with overlap cushion. Will begin transferring materials and equipment to Bilana by mid-March and hope by 25-30 March shelter will become operational. Existing cot style beds will be replaced with bunk beds.

### **Bilana Humanitarian Center**

### Alicia Bobola - PCK:

In terms of the list of needs at Bilana shared with partners, most of the items are resolved – however still urgently in need of lockers/lockable cubicles (#32) so refugees can securely store belongings. With CORE's support, replacing the single bed frames to bunk beds, which will allow us to increase the capacity of the facility to 120 people. We will also provide all partners with blueprints of the facility indicating purpose of each room.

The regulations of the new facility will be very similar to those of TESCO. The condition for admission to the shelter will be refugee status (fleeing from UKR for the first time – no repeat entries – as stamps in passport are verified), and the stay itself will be allowed to last up to 48 hours, with the possibility of extension by the manager's decision up to 14 days.

Among the main differences between TESCO and Bilana will be the ban on animals. This is due to the characteristics of the facility - smaller halls, lack of a lot of space to go out and hygiene concerns.

### Jay Rivera - Hope Foundation:

**Action Points** 

n/a

UNHCR – inform Shelter Sector and Basic Need Working Group coordinators on #32 locker needs, COMPLETED

**Action Points** 

- All Partners site visit the offices the City has made available to rent, COMPLETED
- UNHCR share the rental prices with all partners, COMPLETED (see attached in email).



- Can remaining items at TESCO warehouse be distributed to other shelters? Hope Shelter has furniture, fixtures needs and some items in TESCO could help us.
- Note that information provision is often necessary in shelters (not just at reception point) as people need time to decide where to go/onwards journey thus suggest information provision be made available in Bilana.
- Note that some refugees travel with their pets (animals) and TESCO accepts while Bilana will not. Hope Shelter allows pets but suggest to we jointly find a more comprehensive solution.

### Bartłomiej Barszczak and Dariusz Łapa – City of Przemyśl:

The supplies stockpiled at the TESCO warehouse include equipment, food and hygiene items – noting some items will be transferred to Bilana and other items earmarked to be sent to Ukraine. For any items left behind, you are invited to contact us directly. Regarding pets, there is no decision by government on providing shelter for animals at the moment, but actors are free to establish this service on their own to address need.

### **Eleonore Dupre - DRC:**

DRC met with ACF and Soleterre to start cooperation to provide individual/group PSS services in Bilana, to prepare a joint offer for City of Przemyśl to consider and thus finalize presence in the shelter.

# **Space for Additional Services in Bilana**

### Dariusz Łapa – City of Przemyśl:

Prefer to not install additional containers near Bilana for humanitarian services. The City's proposal is to rent space in a building about 300-400 meters away from Bilana belonging to the Municipal Transportation Company where offices can be used for provision of humanitarian services. The main hall is about 100 sqm, and there are also several smaller offices. Suggest a site visit next week by actors to determine feasibility and the City will provide rental prices.

# Mariusz Bezdzietny – ZHP:

Emphasize that ZHP continues working with UNICEF and UNHCR to run Blue Dot points (three in total at Medyka Border Point, Tesco and Train Station). We have well-trained staff and are interested in any opportunities that will allow us to continue our current outreach activities in new locations.

# Mickiewicza Shelter (Sports Hall) Opening of Social Housing Facility

# Bartłomiej Barszczak – City of Przemyśl

The Mickiewicz building (Sport Hall) is newly rehabilitated by CORE under two project phases (Phase 2 ongoing). It will not be a temporary collective site, but a facility for longer term social housing – open to refugees and others in need with smaller independent units (like small studios). The facility is empty, so all furniture, equipment and fixtures are needed. The City requested the director of the Sports Hall to prepare a list needs that can be shared with UNHCR.

### **Action Points**

- City to prepare list of needs at POSiR and provide to UNHCR, COMPLETED
- UNCHR so share list of needs to partners via Sharefile and the Basic Need WG, COMPLETED



### **AOB**

# Caritas Przemysl – Małgorzata Sielska

Operating a mother and children's shelter with a maximum capacity of #23 persons, and currently housing #20 persons. Also running an Integration Center with activities that include: Polish language classes, PSS, local trips to, Integration Club bringing Polish and Ukrainians together, child friendly activities, and support with economic/employment opportunities. In partnership with private sector actors, offer 3-month apprenticeship program with employment offer guarantee is successfully complete. Have provided #50 placements already. Persons interested in applying for apprenticeship program can come to Przemysl Office and apply.

### Alex Wójtowicz – MEDAIR:

Medair is closing operations in Podkarpackie, thus invite all orgs to contact us if recruiting staff as the Medair team has substantial experience and could respond to your organization's needs.

Reply: Magdalena Kuśka – IOM:

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IOM can take over any unclosed/unresolved case management cases from Medair if necessary.

Organizations w/ 26 Participants Total
City of Przemysl
UNHCR
Oxfam
Hope Foundation
Towards Dialogue Foundation
Medair
ACF
Global Christian Connection
IOM
Association of Ukrainians in Poland
Polish Red Cross
CORE
Soleterre

Contact: Bryant Castro, UNHCR Inter-Agency Coordination Officer, castro@unhcr.org

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