



Regional Refugee Response
for the Ukraine Situation



Palanca Local Coordination Meeting

Meeting Minutes – 09 August 2023

1. Meeting Details

Date	09 August 2023
Time	12:00 – 13:00
Chair	Volokh Karina, UNHCR Snr. Field Assistant
Reporting	Derli Nicolae, ACTED
Email	volokh@unhcr.org; nicolae.derli@acted.org

2. Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Update on recent developments in Palanca Bus Station (PBS)
3. Activity updates from participants
4. AoB

3. Information collection and relevant links

Moldova operational data portal: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784>

Local Refugee Coordination operational data portal: <https://data.unhcr.org/en/search?>

4. Participants (Name, Position, Organization)

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| - Karina Volokh, UNHCR | - Igor Calancea, IGSU |
| - Cristina Babin, INTERSOS | - Shihab Alkairawan, IOM |
| - Natalia Semeniuc, BLUE DOT | - Selma El Khawad, IOM |
| - Igor Becciev, CDA | - Olga Costenco, IOM |
| - Stela Satova, UNFPA | - Cristina Volcovschi, ACR |
| - Nicolae Derli, ACTED | |
| - Roman Lipadat, ACTED | |

5. Information collection and relevant links,



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Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/Actions
<p>Introduction</p> <p>Karina Volokh, UNHCR Snr. Field Assistant, volokh@unhcr.org</p>	<p>UNHCR shared the following points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• On 26 July 2023, the Local Coordination Meeting was held by UNHCR at Palanca bus station. At the meeting were present: ECHO, ACTED, INTERSOS, UNFPA, CDA, IGSU, BLUE DOT, IOM, ACR and GSS Security. The meeting started with a discussion with Ms. Karima Hammadi from ECHO on the situation at the PBS and the number of refugees, and then UNHCR continued with recent updates at the PBS and updates on the activities of the partners.• On 26 July 2023, UNHCR received a visit from ECHO, ACTED, and People in Need to see the territory and discuss the situation at the PBS and the number of refugees.• On 26 July 2023, UNHCR donated a computer to the IGSU Causeni after receiving an official request.• On 27 July 2023, UNHCR received a visit of 5 people from UNICEF, including the Representative of UNICEF Moldova Maha Damaj, at PBS. They had a meeting with the Mayor of Palanca and then visited PBS and the Blue Dot's office.• On 27 July 2023, UNHCR met with Mayor of Palanca and discuss Winterization programme and how UNHCR could support.• On 28 July 2023, UNHCR assisted the Directorate of Social Assistance of Stefan Voda to transport 9 tons of food items received from MLSP and the Embassy of China to distribute to refugees and host communities.• On 1 August 2023, the Mobile Team visited the Causeni city. UNHCR and its partners INTERSOS and CDA offered legal assistance, TP information and registration, information on rights and services and conducted an FGD. The visit was attended by 5 women. CDA colleagues provided free counselling to 2 refugees and provided counselling to a woman on the documentation required to obtain Moldovan citizenship.• On 2 August 2023, UNHCR met with the Chief of the Directorate of Social Assistance and Protection of Stefan Voda and discuss Winterization programme and how UNHCR could support.• On 2 August 2023, UNHCR and IGSU received a visit of Mr. Adrian Efros, Minister of Internal Affairs of Moldova, Ms. Jana Costachi, State secretariat, and the Minister of	



	<p>Internal Affairs of Austria. The purpose of their visit was to familiarize themselves with the Palanca bus station, Tent camp and the Palanca BCP. UNHCR together with IGSU showed them the territory and explained the UNHCR work in Moldova and at the bus station.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• On 8 August 2023, the Mobile Team visited Stefan Voda city. UNHCR and its partners INTERSOS and CDA offered MHPSS, legal assistance, TP information and registration, EU + Air Transfers and information on rights and services to women, men and elderly people aged between 30 and 70. The visit was attended by 41 people, including 5 men, 36 women, and the Chief of the Directorate of Social Assistance of Stefan Voda. Among the main concerns raised by the refugees was how to count 90 days of stay in Moldova after the first entry and whether people have two nationalities with Moldova and Ukraine should register for TP. Some of them asked how to register for English language courses provided by INTERSOS. During the visit, UNHCR and CDA provided information on TP status and what kind of penalties they may face if they do not apply for it. In addition, UNHCR registered 2 host families for cash assistance.• On 8 August 2023, UNHCR visited 6 host families in Stefan Voda city and conducted a winterization survey.• During the last weeks, UNHCR received 4 evacuations with a total of 82 people by GLORIA organization. All people benefited from the various services offered and had coffee/tea and some snacks and afterwards left for Romania with IOM bus.	
<p>Activity updates from participants</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACTED shared that in the past two weeks, 25 people were transported from Palanca border crossing to different RACs. Additionally, 95 people from all parts of the country were transported upon special requests.• BLUE DOT had no significant updates. In the past two weeks, 29 children and 20 adults received their services.• INTEROS shared that there were no updates and no major changes were reported. English language activities are commencing in Talmaza from 10 August 2023. Other activities have resumed in Purcari.• CDA shared that, over the past two weeks, CDA provided legal consultation to 26 beneficiaries. There was no major updates and operations were running smoothly. CDA has been advised by border authorities to remove all banners/flyers related to	



asylum seekers. UNFPA has been asked to provide more information about CDA's and IGM's services to refugees at the border.

- **UNFPA** reported about their ongoing psychological support activities as well as the mobile team in several villages throughout Moldova. No major changes were noted. Psychological assistance continues. An event is scheduled for August 11th at 5:00 pm, in Causeni. All are welcome to attend.
- Selma El Khawad, IOM's new Emergency Coordinator replacing Margo Baars, visited Palanca to familiarize herself with the territory. **IOM** reported that, in the last two weeks, 113 people left for Romania: 60 women, 39 children, and 14 men. Starting from August, IOM doctors will be present at the PBS from Monday to Friday, and their availability will be extended to all days of the week from September.
- **ACR** continues to offer snack/tea services. Discussions are ongoing about their presence after August.
- **IGSU** shared the following points:
 - IGSU asked participants to notify any visits to the bus station through WhatsApp group at least one day in advance to ensure everyone is present and everything is presented in the best possible manner.
 - IGSU is thankful to UNHCR for the donation of a laptop to IGSU Causeni, which is of great help.
 - On 8 and 9 September 2023, Hasidim community will travel to Umani through Palanca and Tudora BCPs. There will be over 30,000 Jewish people passing through borders.
 - In September, IGSU is planning to organize a one-day recreational camp in collaboration with NGO Ave Copii for vulnerable Moldovan and Ukrainian children. Various educational activities will be conducted with them. We kindly request assistance from organizations to help with transportation and, if possible, to provide a small gift to each child at the end of the day.
- **IsraAid** is continuing its work as usual without major changes. There is always one staff consistently present at the station.



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6. Details of the Next Meeting	
Date	20 September 2023
Time	12:00 – 13:00
Venue	Palanca Bus Station