



# Coordination meeting

## MINUTES

Date: 17.05.2023 (Wednesday)

Time: 11.00 p.m. – 1.00 p.m.

Place: Lublin Voivodship Office, column room

### The main points of the agenda

#### Introduction and opening remarks

Lech Sprawka - Governor of Lublin Voivodeship

- The Governor Lech Sprawka discussed the current situation regarding collective housing in Lubelskie Voivodeship and the challenges facing government administration and civil society.
- There is currently a downward trend in collective accommodation for refugees. Currently there are 3696 people in collective accommodation. Due to the entry into force of the amendments to the Law on Assistance to Citizens of Ukraine, 2412 people have been exempted from participation in the cost of living, including 1027 people under the criterion of hardship. 92 people were qualified for cost participation. 34 people appealed the negative decision made at the district level. LUW in Lublin resolved the appeals in favor of the appellants.
- LUW in Lublin is implementing the "Friendly and Safe Office III" project. The beneficiaries of the program are citizens of Ukraine and members of their families who entered Poland as of February 24, 2022, as well as citizens of other third countries who entered Poland from Ukraine and are residing legally, i.e. persons enjoying temporary protection within the meaning of Directive 2001/55/EC, in conjunction with the implementing decision implementing the temporary protection mechanism, residing in the Lublin province. The main activity of the project is the establishment of four information and advisory points on the territory of Lubelskie Voivodeship: in Lublin, Biała Podlaska, Chelm and Zamosc. Consultations are provided in the legal, psychological, vocational-educational and social-health fields. Beneficiaries have the opportunity to participate in stationary and online meetings. A hotline staffed by foreigners' service specialists in Ukrainian is also being launched.
- The Lublin Governor asked that work be expedited on securing the continued operation of the Refugee House in Lublin, run by the Lena Grochowska Foundation, and on finalizing cooperation between LUW in Lublin and the Volunteer Center in Lublin regarding support for refugees within the framework of the Houses of Hope.

Marco Procaccini – UNHCR

- Border traffic in the period 15 April 15 May shows fluctuating patterns, with more crossings recorded to Poland (entries) than those to Ukraine (exits), thus indicating pendular movements of the population rather than a fixed displacement pattern. This is apparent during the Easter period in mid-April, the May holiday season in Poland and over some weekends.





- We are all aware of the situation in Ukraine and the upcoming escalation of the hostilities which is very likely to further impact with displacement of population, and therefore it is very important to keep emergency response capacity in place, although as witnessed from August 2022 onwards the impact in term of arrivals to Poland, so far, has been limited. However, I believe we are all ready under the leadership of the government and the voivodeship office to place a role if needed.
- UNHCR continue to see tireless efforts by government entities, primarily the VOO, the self governments, the organization from civil society and NGOs to support refugees in Lubelskie and it is deeply thankful for this. It is important to not reduce these efforts and to direct them more and more towards inclusion and integration, particularly on the front of the socio-economic integration, getting jobs, enhancing language skills, labor orientation, support the meeting between labor demand and offer.
- UNHCR has recently initiate some new formal cooperation providing support to the activities of the Border Spirit Kulturland Foundation and For The Earth Association in Lublin, and with the NGO Welcome to my world in Pulawy. Small projects directed a very grass root organization which include among other activities, the support to Ukrainian Saturday school, a community garden and support to population living outside main towns.
- The situation of vulnerable individuals, particularly the ones living in collective shelter in peri-urban areas, or the ones with very serious vulnerability continue to require attention and support. Particularly mental health and psychosocial support needs grows for specific segments of the population and demands complementary support to what the State can offer.
- To this group and other extremely vulnerable individuals UNHCR has extended until end of the year its financial aid program, which will provide support to a total of approximately 1500 persons for 3 months, among the ones who have not received support and meet specific eligibility criteria.
- Of particular concern in the last weeks have been the information received by UNHCR that a number of refugee children from Ukraine in Poland are/were soon to be returned to Ukraine, including disabled children and youth originally from institutions in various part of Ukraine. Within this context yesterday a return of 29 persons between children and young adults with serious physical and mental challenges took place from Krasnobrod, which has confirmed our concerns that were flagged last week to Undersecretary of State for the Ministry of Family and Social Policy Ms. Socha.
- UNHCR respects the role and responsibilities of the guardians and caregivers mandated to care for children evacuated from institutions in Ukraine and currently hosted in facilities in Poland, however given the complex and continuously evolving situation in Ukraine, UNHCR is seeking to better understand the procedural safeguards which have been put in place by child protection authorities in Poland, particularly with regard to individual assessment to be made, and determination of each individual child's best interests priori return. It should include (a) information about the available options in a child-friendly and accessible manner, (b) consideration for the living and care arrangements in the area to which each child will return (c) up-to-date and localized information about the availability of quality services in areas of return to respond to the specific vulnerabilities of individual children, particularly for children living with disabilities.
- UNHCR considers that any decision related to returns at this time carries significant implications for the physical and psychological well-being of any child. As such, we believe that these decisions should not be made on a group basis but based on an individualized assessment of each child's best interests. UNHCR stands ready to support the authorities in the adaptation/refinement of their child protection procedures, if necessary.





- Marco Procaccini expressed thanks to all institutions and organizations that are contributing to a joint plan for WRD 2023 on June 20<sup>th</sup>. There is a certain number of events in Lublin, Chelm and elsewhere, which is another positive sign of the commitment and expression of solidarity of Lubelskie with Ukrainian Refugees.

**Situation of Ukrainian citizens in Poland - perspectives and challenges - Consul General of Ukraine in Lublin Oleh Kuts**

Consul General of Ukraine in Lublin Oleh Kuts

- Mr. Oleh Kuts assumed the position of Consul General of Ukraine in Lublin on April 11, 2023, thus ending his mission in Lublin with Mr. Artem Valah, the previous PO of the Consul General in Lublin.
- In his statement, the Consul General of Ukraine in Lublin referred to the first weeks of the armed conflict in Ukraine and the amount of support that Poland and Poles have given to the citizens of Ukraine, as well as the signs of solidarity that have been observed throughout the country. At the moment, Poland is the leader among countries helping Ukraine. The aid provided by Poland has been valued at more than 8 billion euros.
- All kinds of diplomatic efforts to build a coalition to support Ukraine are important, of which Poland is an important part.
- Oleh Kuts referred to the reconstruction of Ukraine. He assured that it is Polish business that will be prioritized in this regard. Estimates of how much it may cost to rebuild the war damage speak of costs exceeding even \$700 billion. The Consul General expressed confidence that companies from the Lublin region will also have a share in this work, especially in the post-conflict phase.
- Oleh Kuts indicated his openness to cooperation and assistance in all kinds of challenges and initiatives aimed at citizens in Lublin and the Lublin region.
- Direct contact to the Consul General of Ukraine in Lublin:  
mail: [oleh.kuts@mfa.gov.ua](mailto:oleh.kuts@mfa.gov.ua)  
tel. +48 669 575 800

**The current situation at border crossing points in the Lublin Voivodeship concerning the reception of refugees. Challenges related to reactivation of UKR status for Ukrainian citizens returning to Poland - Nadbużański Border Guard Regional Unit / Border Guard HQ**

Piotr Grytczuk, Ewa Pomorska - Nadbużański Border Guard Regional Unit

- Due to the armed conflict in Ukraine, there was a massive influx of foreigners to Poland, both Ukrainian citizens and third-country nationals. The peak of border traffic took place in early March 2022 (almost 1 million people). In March 2023 it is 256,00 people.
- On the territory of the Lublin Voivodeship there are 4 road border crossings with Ukraine, viz: - Dolhobyczów - Uhrynów, - Dorohusk - Jagodzin, - Hrebenne - Rawa Ruska, - Zosin - Ustług, and 2 railroad border crossings: - Hrubieszow - Włodzimierz Wołyński, - Dorohusk - Jagodzin.
- The largest border traffic took place at the Hrebenne - Rawa Ruska border crossing, through which more than 1 million refugees entered the Lublin region, while about 500,000 Ukrainian citizens returned to their country through this crossing. In the first period, the number of Ukrainian citizens entering Poland clearly prevailed, with about 30% of all refugees arriving in Lublin Voivodeship in March 2022. However, since mid-





April in Poland, and in Lublin Voivodeship since May 2022, there has been a reversal of the migration trend, i.e. more Ukrainian citizens returned to the country than left it. In the autumn months (IX-X) there was a balance between the inflow and outflow of refugees in the Lublin region.

- 491 thousand people did not have a document authorizing them to cross the border. The Border Guard used legal instruments that allowed the commandant of the border crossing to issue permission to cross the border.

Przemysław Budny, Piotr Parchan – Border Guard HQ

- PESEL UKR status is granted on the basis of an application filed with any municipal executive body in the territory of the Republic of Poland. On this basis, a PESEL with the annotation UKR is assigned. PESEL status is active when a citizen of Ukraine is still a beneficiary of the Assistance Act and enjoys all the rights provided for in the Act. Departure outside the territory of Poland for more than 30 days deprives the Ukrainian citizen of the benefit of temporary protection.
- The Border Guard transmits on an ongoing basis (by means of data teletransmission) to the Chancellery of the Prime Minister of the Council of Ministers, the data recorded in the register of citizens of Ukraine who came to the territory of the Republic of Poland from the territory of Ukraine in connection with the hostilities conducted on the territory of Ukraine, in terms of crossing the state border in the direction of arrival to the Republic of Poland, and information on departure from this territory for a period exceeding 30 days.
- Citizens of Ukraine who have ceased to be beneficiaries of the Assistance Act, e.g. have left the territory of the Republic of Poland for more than 30 days, the status of "UKR" is automatically changed to "NUE". The change is made spontaneously by an IT system administered by the Minister of Digitization, not by the Border Guard.
- A Ukrainian citizen with a PESEL number with an active "UKR" status can activate the diia.pl application on the trusted profile mCitizen. The diia.pl application installed on a cell phone constitutes a "virtual residence card" that allows multiple crossings of the border of the Republic of Poland under the rules of a temporary residence card. The document confirms identity, entitles to stay and cross the border together with a valid travel document.
- If a citizen of Ukraine leaves the territory of the Republic of Poland for more than 30 days, the IT system administered by the NPRM will automatically change the status of PESEL "UKR" to PESEL "NUE". There is then a change in the expiration date of diia.pl (to the date of the last departure from the territory of the Republic of Poland). The foreigner will not be able to cross the border in the direction of entry on the basis of this document.
- In a situation where a foreigner of Ukraine, who left Ukraine due to an armed conflict on the territory of that country, entered Poland through the internal border of the Republic of Poland, e.g.: with Slovakia, goes directly to the municipal office, where he obtains a PESEL number with the status "UKR", which results in his registration in the Register kept by the KPRM. In such a case, the registration of the PESEL number takes place on the basis of the foreigner's statement regarding the date of border crossing (it is not possible to confirm the date of border crossing in the SG system).





- In order to avoid the loss of UKR PESEL status due to leaving the territory of Poland for a period shorter than 30 days, a foreigner returning to Poland should inform the Border Guard officer performing the passport check about the intention to enter in connection with exercising the right of temporary protection in Poland, and each time present an electronic document diia.pl.
- Stay outside the borders of the Republic of Poland longer than 30 days (2 opportunities to re-acquire the status of PESEL "UKR")
  1. At the border If a citizen of Ukraine, after a period of stay outside the territory of the Republic of Poland exceeding 30 days, reappears at the border crossing point for arrival in Poland and declares that he or she is evacuating from Ukraine due to hostilities in the country, he or she will be recorded in the register of citizens of Ukraine who arrived in the territory of the Republic of Poland due to hostilities, will be marked as "evacuee" in the entry record, and the status "NUE" will automatically change to "UKR", which will result in the restoration of rights under the Assistance Act, as of the date of re-entry.
  2. On the territory of the Republic of Poland The change of the status of "NUE" to "UKR" is also possible on the territory of the Republic of Poland in the municipal office, in such a way that a foreigner of Ukraine, who entered the territory of the Republic of Poland, for example: on the basis of a biometric passport, will make a declaration that his departure from Ukraine took place in reference with the connection with hostilities, and then the status of "UKR" will be restored to him.

#### **UNHCR Protection Sector updates in Lublin Voivodship**

Lara Zunelli - UNHCR

- Findings from protection monitoring. July 26 - April 30, 2023: 36,944 people were interviewed. 4,411 people interviewed in Lublin Province, in 18 different counties and 4 cities with county rights. In 2023, January - April - 1,103 people were interviewed.
- Gender breakdown: Women - 94%, Men 6%; Age: 18-24 - 7%, 25-39 - 35%, 40-59-38%, 60+ - 20%.
- Top 5 regions of origin: Kharkiv - 18%, Volyn - 11%, Kyiv - 9%, Kyiv City - 8%, Dnipropetrovsk - 8%.
- Education level: Higher education - 55%, technical or vocational - 25%, secondary - 28%, primary - 1%.
- Requesting temporary protection: Yes - 79%, No, I do not plan to apply - 15%, No, but I plan to apply - 6%, I prefer not to answer - 0%. Why do you not plan to apply: I don't plan to stay in the country - 82%; I don't need protection and related benefits - 10%, Other - 6%, I am checking if the situation in Ukraine will improve - 2%.

#### **Implementation of the amendment to the Law on Assistance to Citizens of Ukraine in Connection with the Armed Conflict on the Territory of Ukraine**

Andrzej Osipowski - LUW in Lublin

- The increase in terms of people contributing to the cost of staying in places of collective accommodation (92 people) is positive. Issues of integration and economic inclusion should be kept in mind, so that some people are able to become independent.
- The number of people exempted from contributing to the cost of living due to the various grounds under the law remains stable.
- Appeals submitted to the Governor in connection with the negative decision on participation taken at the district level were mostly resolved in favor of the appellants. The appeals did not raise doubts about their





legitimacy. A common case that raised doubts in the district was the amount of income that a person earned, in cases where this income did not allow him to provide accommodation on his own.

- As of 17 May, LUW in Lublin has received 34 appeals, including one in May 2023. 26 appeals were resolved positively. In 7 cases, the negative decision was kept.

**Upcoming UNICEF campaigns: mental health among caregivers and reporting violence against children - UNICEF**

Agnieszka Sochoń – UNICEF

Campaign on mental health of Ukrainian mothers in Poland "Roof is in your hands"

- Issues contributing to stress for the largest proportion of respondents were uncertainty about the future (51%); worries about family or friends in Ukraine (45%); and sadness about the war (43%).
- The most common coping strategies reported by surveyed mothers were spending time with their children (50%) and believing in Ukraine's victory (52%).
- More than half of respondents (53%) considered accessing psychiatric care. Half of them, however, did receive such help. A large percentage of those with higher levels of stress (according to the WHO's official scale) did not consider seeking psychological help.
- For the mothers surveyed, it is important that the psychologist will be from Ukraine.
- The priority of the intervention should be to inform about how to get emotional/psychological support. We need to reach women with different mental states.
- We want people to see that there are different options for taking care of their mental health. Not everyone will go to a psychologist. As we see, there are barriers, so we need to offer alternatives to those who are not considering professional help.
- Information about practical and realistic ways to access mental health care will be helpful, especially for those who have little time/money and who have childcare responsibilities.
- Respondents were open to different types of mental health support (face-to-face, remote, group), but it was important to them that the person they speak to speak Ukrainian.
- Web link: [Де знайти допомогу з ментального здоров'я в Польщі? | Spilno \(spilnoinpl.org\)](https://spilno.org/)

Campaign against child violence "Your voice is key in the fight against violence"

- 39% of surveyed mothers who moved from Ukraine to Poland after February 2022 say they do not know where to go/how to get help for abuse, exploitation and crime in Poland.
- 16% of respondents do not believe they will get the help they need in Poland.
- Why don't we report violence?

Psychological: feeling that we don't need help or that the situation won't change; shame, stigma and self-blame; not understanding what violence is

Social: normalization of violence; inability to describe violence; fear of consequences for self or perpetrator; being dependent on perpetrator of violence (e.g. financially)

Environmental: lack of trust in the support system; lack of social support (e.g., not having someone to turn to for help); lack of information on how to access services.

- Who is the campaign aimed at?

Victims of violence - children, Polish and Ukrainian







Witnesses to violence - parents and teachers, Polish and Ukrainian

- Objectives

To raise awareness of what violence is and how to recognize its different types (physical, emotional, sectarian, cyberbullying, bullying)

To encourage victims and witnesses of violence to seek help and report violence

Facilitate access to various forms of assistance

Printed materials for the presented campaigns can be ordered free of charge by writing to: [asochon@unicef.org](mailto:asochon@unicef.org)

#### Action points

- To develop informational material for LGK members on solving problems related to reactivation of UKR status.
- To define the role of the LGK in the process of reconstruction of Ukraine.

#### Other information

##### UNHCR

- The Inter-Agency colleague from Warsaw participated in the Lubelskie Inter-Sector Coordination Group meeting and provided an update on the Inter-Agency newsletter, which aims to share funding opportunities with the humanitarian community.  
To enroll please use the following link <http://eepurl.com/h2wvcT>
- It was also emphasized the importance for different organizations to fill the matrix on contingency planning and review/update information in the document on Activities to Support Refugees Leaving Collective Sites. Last, it was briefly mentioned the last ISCG in Warsaw and the preparations for the Multi Sectorial Needs Assessment, likely to be carried out around June-July.  
To fill the marix regarding contingency planning please go to page: [National IA Contingency Response 2023 - Google Sheets](#)  
To fill the file regarding activities to support refugees leaving collective sites go to page: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/19MenS6PZTfkrSjnoelLCSOdcQ4PF0UyG/edit#gid=1031360980>

##### Save the Children

Information about planned trainings:

1. SPHERE Training
    - a. Sphere training in Przemysl training in English during May 23-25.
    - b. Sphere (Train the Trainers in English), confirmed in June in Warsaw
    - c. Further Sphere trainings in Polish/Ukrainian in Q3/4 planned, tbc
- Focal point: Kasia Bryczkowska, [Katarzyna.bryczkowska@savethechildren.org](mailto:Katarzyna.bryczkowska@savethechildren.org)
- Note: Save the Children – HLA (Humanitarian Leadership Academy) is Focal Point for Sphere in Poland.
2. HOP (HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS PROGRAMME), Two more HOP trainings:
    - a. HOP in in Polish, in Lublin before summer, probably July dates TBC.
    - b. HOP training in Polish place and dates will be confirmed ahead of time/date.

Focal point: Kasia Bryczkowska, [Katarzyna.bryczkowska@savethechildren.org](mailto:Katarzyna.bryczkowska@savethechildren.org)

3. COACHING/ MENTORING (upon request) - English/ in Polish
4. CAPACITY STRENGHTENING - English/ in Polish
5. Organizational Development - English/ in Polish
6. Eco-Leadership - English/ in Polish





Focal point: Kamila Wujec, [kamila.wujec@savethechildren.org](mailto:kamila.wujec@savethechildren.org)

7. Safeguarding Essentials in Polish, in Przemyśl, during, 29 – 30.05.2023

Focal point: [karolina.mackiewicz@rshub.org.uk](mailto:karolina.mackiewicz@rshub.org.uk)

8. CHL Crisis Leadership Training is seeking applications from Polish speaking participants - starting on 1 June -2023 online, with an intensive in Warsaw on the 17-19 July 2023.

Flyer: [211122CLPSeedBrochure\\_Update-pol.pdf \(centreforhumanitarianleadership.org\)](#)

Application goes directly to CHL, please find the contacts in the brochure and here [https://bit.ly/CHL\\_CLP](https://bit.ly/CHL_CLP)  
HLA website is [Home - Humanitarian Leadership Academy](#)

### Participants

Name and surname	Organization / Institution
Lech Sprawka	Voivodeship Office in Lublin
Bolesław Gzik	Voivodeship Office in Lublin
Agata Grola	Voivodeship Office in Lublin
Renata Rojek	Voivodeship Office in Lublin
Mariusz Kidaj	Voivodeship Office in Lublin
Andrzej Osipowski	Voivodeship Office in Lublin
Marco Procaccini	UNHCR
Lara Zunelli	UNHCR
Kamil Raczyński	UNHCR
Małgorzata Gałan	UNHCR
Mikołaj Kniaz	UNHCR
Oleh Kuts	General Consulate of Ukraine in Lublin
Ks. Mieczysław Puzewicz	Volunteer Center in Lublin
Aneta Serafin	Volunteer Center in Lublin
Lidia Kokszarowa	Polish Red Cross Lublin Regional Branch
Barbara Adamczyk-Sosnowy	Voivodeship Labor Office
Magdalena Wójcik	Voivodeship Labor Office
Joanna Księżka-Koszałka	Caritas Lublin Archdiocese
Ks Marcin Jakubiak	Caritas Zamość-Lubaczów Archdiocese
Małgorzata Kurkowska	UNICEF
Agnieszka Sochoń	UNICEF
Anna Mielnicka	For the Earth Association







Filip Bujnowski	Save the Children
Ghulam Sakhi Rahjoe	Save the Children
Karina Rybchanivska	Save the Children
Marta Brożyna	Lena Grochowska Foundation
Marzena Pieńkosz-Sapieha	Food Bank Foundation in Lublin
Urszula Paździor	Agape Association
Anna Łoś	Agape Association
Anna Kalbus	Soleterre
Piotr Grytczuk	Nadbużański Regional Unit of Border Guards
Ewa Pomorska	Nadbużański Regional Unit of Border Guards
Przemysław Budny	Border Guards HQ
Piotr Parchan	Border Guards HQ

