



Regional Refugee Response  
for the Ukraine Situation

## Protection Working Group

Meeting Details	
<b>Date</b>	<i>28 June 2023</i> <i>Next meeting 2 August 2023</i>
<b>Time</b>	<i>10.00 am – 12.00 am</i>
<b>Chair</b>	<i>Andrew Painter, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR, Sector Coordinator</i> <i>Carolina Cazaciuc, Coordinator on Refugee Rights, Ombudsperson Office, Co-Chair</i>
<b>Reporting</b>	<i>Sean Sager, Protection Officer, UNHCR</i>
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:painter@unhcr.org">painter@unhcr.org</a> , <a href="mailto:carolina.cazaciuc@ombudsman.md">carolina.cazaciuc@ombudsman.md</a> , <a href="mailto:sager@unhcr.org">sager@unhcr.org</a>
<b>Agenda</b>	



## Welcome & Review of Agenda

1. Introductions/Review of Agenda (10:00-10:10)
2. Situational Updates (10:10 – 10:30)
3. Temporary Protection (10:30 – 10:50)
  - a. Updates
  - b. PWG Comments on TP Implementation
  - c. TP Enrollment Fairs
4. Social Cohesion Workshop (10:50 – 11:10)
5. Mapping of informal RACs (11:10 – 11:20)
6. Mobile Units Mapping (11:20 – 11:30)
7. Referral Pathways (11:30 – 11:45)
  - a. National Referral Pathways
  - b. Balti Referral Pathways Workshop
8. AOB (11:45-12:00)



<b>Participants</b>			
<b>Andrew Painter, UNHCR</b>	<b>Teodora Zafiu, UNDP</b>	<b>Chaza Ghandour, ICRC</b>	<b>Svetlana Jioara, CDA</b>
<b>Carolina Cazaciuc, Ombudsperson Office</b>	<b>Myriem El Khatib, ICRC</b>	<b>Christina Khouri, INTERSOS</b>	<b>Diana Alexei, Chisinau City Hall</b>
<b>Hanna Ursol, UNHCR</b>	<b>Maryna Bozkurt, OHCHR</b>	<b>Cristina Triboi, Terre de hommes Moldova</b>	<b>Dominique Sbardella, Plan International</b>
<b>Dina Zamfirova, UNHCR</b>	<b>Martina Bogdeva, UNHCR</b>	<b>Fabienna de Lima Faria, Oxfam</b>	<b>Bianca Miccione, ACTED</b>
<b>Sabina Sandu, UNHCR</b>	<b>Natasa Omerovic, IOM</b>	<b>Eloi Rouillon, WeWorld</b>	<b>Barbara Bello, ACTED</b>
<b>Sivkova Sara, UNHCR</b>	<b>Daniele Pedretti, HelpAge</b>	<b>Dilnoza Nicolescu, Caritas</b>	<b>Maura Reap, WHO</b>
<b>Yurii Arnautov, UNHCR</b>	<b>Casey O'Neill, Church World Service</b>		<b>Rotara V., Mercy Corps</b>
<b>Oleksandr Mainov, OHCHR</b>			



### Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p><b>Agenda Point 1</b></p> <p><b>Welcome &amp; Review of Agenda</b></p> <p><i>Andrew Painter, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR</i></p> <p><a href="mailto:painter@unhcr.org">painter@unhcr.org</a></p>	<p>The <b>PWG co-chair</b> welcomed participants, thanked them for their presence, and encouraged them to attend in person for future meetings, in order to have more engaging discussions. He presented the agenda, and no objections were raised.</p> <p>If any modifications are necessary to minutes of the PWG, please contact: <a href="mailto:sivkovas@unhcr.org">sivkovas@unhcr.org</a></p>	<p>Agenda presented and agreed</p>



<p><b>Agenda Point 2</b></p> <p><b>Situational Updates</b></p> <p><i>Svetlana Jiora, CDA/LCA</i> <a href="mailto:svetlana.jioara@cda.md">svetlana.jioara@cda.md</a></p> <p><i>Cristina Baroni, Protection Officer, INTERSOS</i> <a href="mailto:protoff.moldova@intersos.org">protoff.moldova@intersos.org</a></p>	<p><b>CDA Updates from BCPs</b></p> <p>During the last four weeks at Palanca BCP, there were 13 asylum seekers, 8 of whom crossed the border illegally (brought to Palanca BCP and claimed asylum and documented). The car flow was intense at the entry and medium in the direction of the exit of RM. Regular buses were observed without interruption. Intelligence services from MD and UA are present at Palanca BCP. UA border police were observed near the UNICEF tent, stopping cars of those who are not allowed to exit UA, confiscating their passports, and transporting them to Maiaki where their passports were returned. Many refugees coming to RM are from Odesa, Odesa region, Kyiv and Zaporozhe. During the reporting period, 31 UASC were assisted by guardianship authorities and allowed to enter Moldova. TCNs continue to be subject to additional verifications at the BCP. Refugees report intensified missile attacks in Ukraine. Some Ukrainian men intending to leave Ukraine are denied crossing the border by UA border guards due to being suspected of carrying false certifications regarding disabilities; most of them have medical certificates confirming they are not suitable to be conscripted into the army.</p> <p>At Otaci BCP there were two (2) asylum-seekers. There was a medium flow of cars in both directions and an intense flow of pedestrians travelling to Mogolev-Podolsk for grocery shopping. Some Russian nationals were denied entry to UA.</p> <p>Since the beginning of 2023, a total of 270 minors have crossed the Palanca BCP either unaccompanied (73) or without authorized escorts (197). In the outbound direction from the Republic of Moldova (RM), 128 authorization</p>	
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	<p>documents for crossing were issued. In the inbound direction, 142 authorization documents for crossing were issued.</p> <p><b>INTERSOS Update from Palanca Bus Hub</b></p> <p>Over the past month, the arrivals from Palanca Bus Hub were medium to low. Many refugees were not crossing for the first time and intended to stay in Moldova or continue to EU countries. Due to less frequent departures of humanitarian buses from Palanca bus hub, some refugees are spending a few days in the tents near the bus hub or in temporary accommodation. The majority of refugees arrive from Odesa, Kherson, Kyiv, Dnipro, and Zaporizhia. Some refugees reported worsening conditions in UA in connection to the Kakhovka dam destruction, stating difficulties to access drinkable water due to water pollution, limited access to food and electricity blackouts.</p> <p>Some refugees reported rumors of potential Russian attacks against the Zaporizhia nuclear plant causing people to buy out the iodine tablets supplies. Another rumor was that boys around 16 y.o. would be enrolled in the army.</p> <p>INTERSOS reported that refugees coming from Transnistria were unaware of Temporary Protection and were having difficulties registering online.</p> <p>In Romania, refugees reported that they were facing difficulties with enrolling their children with disabilities in the education system and were coming to Moldova to access schooling for their children.</p> <p><b>Discussion</b></p> <p><b>UNHCR</b> co-chair asked about the impact of the Kakhovka dam explosion on the movement of refugees. CDA representative stated that only two persons from Kakhavka come to RM due to destroyed housing.</p>	
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<p><b>Agenda Point 3</b></p> <p><b>Temporary Protection</b></p> <p><i>Opening remarks</i></p> <p><i>Andrew Painter, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR</i></p> <p><a href="mailto:painter@unhcr.org">painter@unhcr.org</a></p>	<p><b>UNHCR updates on Temporary Protection (TP):</b></p> <p>There are ongoing efforts to facilitate TP awareness and registration. UNHCR, in cooperation with Laolalta, NCUM and CDA, is organizing TP enrollment Fairs.</p> <p>The Commission on Migration and Asylum met on 5 June, where challenges around TP implementation were discussed, including proof of residence. The Ministry of Internal Affairs convened 2 meetings dedicated to issues around proof of residence and eligibility criteria, as well as the TP information campaign. MIA plans to launch an expanded information campaign related to rights of refugees focusing on health, education and employment.</p> <p>There are ongoing discussions about the situation of refugees without legal status after 13 August 13 when their legal stay in the country will end. A number of refugees might find themselves in a state of vulnerability, unable to access social, health and protection services if they do not apply for and receive a legal status in Moldova. There are ongoing discussions with IGM on determining what will happen after the deadline.</p> <p>UNHCR introduced the Survey on Temporary Protection: Intentions and Experiences. The aim of this exercise is to strengthen and promote an evidence-based response related to the implementation of Temporary Protection in the Republic of Moldova. The PWG partners have been gathering information from Ukrainian refugees about their intentions and experiences when applying for TP. This exercise includes the demographic data; intentions to apply for TP; experience with the application process and setbacks when applying for TP. UNHCR will share the TP dashboard shortly.</p> <p><b>PWG Comments on TP</b></p> <p>Last week UNHCR shared with the PWG a draft document on the PWG Comments on TP Implementation. The intention of this document is to document the TP implementation setbacks identified by the PWG partners and</p>	<p>UNCHR will share the finalized version of the PWG Comments on TP Implementation</p> <p>UNHCR to share Survey on TP and TP factsheet when finalized.</p>
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	<p>provide constructive recommendations to address them. The PWG comments are to be submitted to the Ministry of Internal Affairs along with other relevant ministries.</p> <p>The PWG comments on TP Implementation address the legal background of TP; the registration process; the deadline for regularizing status (CES decision no.68); and access to rights. Additionally, the document also takes into consideration the TP registration of older refugees and persons with disabilities, UASC, Roma refugees, and refugees residing in the Transnistrian region.</p> <p>According to the latest IGM statistics, 5263 individuals had been issued TP cards and another 9363 had pre-enrolled and were waiting for an IGM interview. This indicates that a high number of refugees still remain without any legal status in Moldova.</p> <p><b>TP Enrollment Fair</b></p> <p>A TP enrollment fair was organized in mid-June in Chisinau in cooperation with CDA, Laolalta, UNHCR and the National Congress. The aim of the fair was to explain the procedure of applying for TP, answer questions and provide individual counseling. Additional TP Enrollment Fairs will be initiated in different cities in July.</p> <p><b>Comments &amp; Discussions</b></p> <p><b>OHCHR</b> representative pointed out the inconsistent procedures on proof of residence. In practice, the IGM registration offices sometimes require the presence of the owner of the property during registration and other times only a written proclamation is sufficient. OHCHR also highlighted the difficulties with information campaign and proof of residence in Transnistrian region.</p>	
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#### Agenda Point 4 Social Cohesion Workshop

##### *Presentation*

*Teodora Zafiu, Livelihoods and  
Inclusion Sector Coordination  
Specialist, UNDP*

[teodora.zafiu@undp.org](mailto:teodora.zafiu@undp.org)

*Oleksandr Mainov, Community-  
Based Protection Officer, UNHCR*

[mainov@unhcr.org](mailto:mainov@unhcr.org)

#### **UNDP representative presented outcomes of the Social Cohesion Workshop**

The aim of the workshop was to provide an understanding of what is social cohesion, identify gaps, provide constructive solutions and strengthen the social cohesion between the host community and the refugee community.

*The key findings of the workshop were:*

- The divide and social tension in the interaction between the host community and refugees is low
- Support for refugees is associated with the pro-EU and pro-Western outlook of those residing in Moldova and rejection of Russian aggression
- The lowest levels of tolerance were identified in the North (Balti, Soroca, Drochia, and in particular Floresti); Cahul also showed lower levels of trust towards refugees and less support for policies designed to help them
- Overall, host communities feel uninformed about the refugee response and its priorities

The next step is to initiate small focus group discussions focusing on different aspects of social cohesion.

The results of the workshop can be accessed through the [shared folder](#). The results will be shared within the RCF later on.

#### **Comments & Discussions**

**UNHCR** CBP Officer explained that there is an ongoing discussion with the mayor of Otaci to create a list of vulnerable groups of refugees and to create a



	<p>schedule of activities/services for them with the participation of refugee representatives, local NGOs and civil society. Special emphasis is given to the inclusion of the Roma community.</p> <p><b>IOM</b> representative brought up the question of including social cohesion within the different RCF sectors. UNDP representative noted plans to develop a guideline/check list for working groups to follow the do-no harm principle and to initiate an assessment to monitor the situation on the ground.</p> <p><b>CDA</b> representative asked about the inclusion of Roma children who have access to only informal education. He pointed out that Roma refugees are facing discrimination in education in Moldova. UNDP representative explained that this particular workshop did not cover this topic, however, will initiate discussion on identifying gaps and solutions with all stakeholders involved. UNHCR agreed that the best path to social cohesion is through children and education.</p>	
<p><b>Agenda Point 5</b> <b>Mapping of Informal RACs</b></p> <p><i>Andrew Painter, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR</i> <a href="mailto:painter@unhcr.org">painter@unhcr.org</a></p>	<p>The PWG in cooperation with the Basic Needs WG is starting a mapping of informal Refugee Accommodation Centres (RAC). An informal RAC is considered any location, other than a hotel, that accommodates more than 20 persons displaced from Ukraine. This exercise aims to ensure that RCF partners have a clear understanding of where Ukrainian refugees and other displaced persons from Ukraine are residing and what services are available for them. The <a href="#">mapping form</a> will be circulated within the PWG to get inputs from partners on locations and services provided in specific informal RACs.</p>	<p>UNCHR to share the form for mapping of Informal RACs.</p>



<p><b>Agenda Point 6 Mobile Unit Mapping</b></p> <p><i>Andrew Painter, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR</i></p> <p><a href="mailto:painter@unhcr.org">painter@unhcr.org</a></p>	<p>The PWG recently completed the exercise of mapping mobile protection units in the Republic of Moldova. A survey was sent out to partners last month to have a better understanding of which organizations are providing mobile protection services and where these services are located. The purpose of the exercise is to strengthen coordination amongst protection actors who are providing assistance and to minimize duplication and overlap of services in different locations. The initial mapping has been completed and results have been shared with partners who took part in the exercise.</p> <p>A shared calendar has been created for partners to include their mobile visits. This will allow partners to better plan their visits and to avoid multiple visits to the same location. PWG members are encouraged to include their activities for <a href="#">July</a>. The CP and GBV SWGs are currently doing a similar exercise within their respective networks, which the PWG will include and share once consolidated.</p>	<p>UNHCR to share calendar of mobile units mappings for July.</p>
<p><b>Agenda Point 7 Referral Pathways</b></p> <p><i>National Referral Pathways</i></p> <p><i>Andrew Painter, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR</i></p> <p><a href="mailto:painter@unhcr.org">painter@unhcr.org</a></p> <p><i>Balti Referral Pathways</i> <i>Natasa Omerovic, IOM</i> <a href="mailto:nomerovic@iom.int">nomerovic@iom.int</a></p>	<p><b>UNHCR co-chair introduced the development of National Referral Pathways</b></p> <p>The National Referral Pathways are almost finalized, waiting for the health sector to provide their input. UNHCR will distribute the document of National Referral Pathways to the PWG when finalized. The PWG members were encouraged to provide their feedback.</p> <p><b>IOM representative provided an update on the Balti Referral Pathways</b></p> <p>The Emergency Referrals Package for Balti was created as a result of the two-day workshop on 11 and 12 May 2023. The workshop on “<i>Establishing Local Referral Pathways for Ukrainian Refugees</i>” was organized by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in collaboration with the International Organization for Migration (IOM). The list of contacts for referring cases in Balti municipality and surrounding areas was created thanks to the</p>	<p>UNHCR to distribute finalized National Referral Pathways when finished.</p> <p>UNHCR to share the Balti Referral Pathways when finalized.</p>



	<p>active participation of local authorities, INGOs, and local NGOs in Balti (in total 35 participants).</p> <p>The package includes national-level and local-level referral pathways for protection, healthcare, MHPSS and PSEA, GBV, legal assistance, employment, antitrafficking, support for persons with disabilities, shelter and accommodation, transportation, cash assistance, NFIs, WASH, food, and cash assistance.</p> <p>The first draft of the document was presented at the Balti Coordination Forum to be revised by local partners before its final version is distributed to the public.</p> <p>The next local-level referral pathways exercise is planned for in Ungheni. Planning will begin in July.</p> <p><b>Comments &amp; Discussions</b></p> <p>UNDP asked about the Balti Referral Pathways' focus on employment. IOM explained that the Balti Referral Pathways document includes a few local organizations providing counselling on employment. UNDP suggested initiating a dedicated workshop for employment in Balti in the near future.</p>	
<p><b>Agenda Point 7 AOB</b></p> <p><i>Andrew Painter, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR</i></p> <p><a href="mailto:painter@unhcr.org">painter@unhcr.org</a></p>	<p><i>Capacity-Building</i></p> <p>The PWG continues its schedule of training and presentations on various topics. Two sessions took place in June. The first training on <i>'Responding to the needs of persons who engage in the sale and exchange of sex in humanitarian setting'</i> initiated by the GBV SWG in cooperation with UNAIDS was attended by 61 participants. The second training on <i>'Mandatory Reporting Procedures for Child Abuse, Neglect, Exploitation, and Trafficking'</i> had a strong turnout, with</p>	<p>UNHCR to share information on upcoming Capacity Training in July.</p>



	<p>more than 85 persons participating across different sectors. The schedule for July has not been finalized yet, and when decided it will be circulated among the PWG.</p>	
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### Information collection and relevant links

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

UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe: The Implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive - Six Months On (October 2022)

<https://reliefweb.int/report/poland/unhcr-regional-bureau-europe-implementation-temporary-protection-directive-six-months-october-2022>

*If necessary, feel free to add extra rows in the matrix above.*