



Protection Working Group

Meeting Details	
Date	<i>13 December 2023</i>
Time	<i>10.00 am – 11.00 am (hybrid)</i>
Chair	<i>Andrew Painter, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR, Sector Coordinator</i> <i>Carolina Cazaciuc, Coordinator on Refugee Rights, Ombudsperson Office, Co-Chair</i>
Reporting	<i>Sara Sivkova, Senior Protection Assistant, UNHCR</i>
Email	painter@unhcr.org , carolina.cazaciuc@ombudsman.md , sager@unhcr.org , sivkovas@unhcr.org
Agenda	



Welcome & Review of Agenda

1. Introductions/Review of Agenda
2. Updates
 - a. Changes to the UNHCR cash assistance programme
 - b. Verification of the legal status
 - c. Information sharing
3. AOB



Participants			
Andrew Painter, UNHCR	Svetlana Jioara, CDA	Corina Gribinceam Keystone	Ina Rusu, ADRA
Sean Sager, UNHCR	Larisa Volosin, CDA	Corina Tesu, REACH	Alexandru Blajevshi
Monica Vazquez, UNHCR	Mihail Gangan, CDA	Natalia Hadei, HEKS/ EPER	Aliona Babina
Alberto Tonon, UNHCR	Ion Bambuleac, CDA	Rebecca Oswago, MdM	Ana Macovenco
Carolina Sclifos, UNHCR	Bianca Miccione, ACTED	Djavid Paknehad, Centrul de	Andrei Girleanu
Fadia Jbara, UNHCR	Stefan Prisacaru, ACTED	Cariate	Angela Ciocirlan
Sara Sivkova, UNHCR	Vlad Scripniciuc, ACTED	Galina Bujor, Prohect Hope	Angela Cutasevici, Viceprimar
Katie Lampe, UNHCR	Alina Babacaev, INTERSOS	Meric Balkanli, PIN	Cornel Tarus
Karina Volokh, UNHCR	Christina Khouri, INTERSOS	Madan Daniela, WHO	Cusnir Nina
Martina Bogdeva, UNHCR	Alina Negru, CCR	Tatiana Chebac, Comision of	Daniela Dirzu
Suenanica de Rozario, UNHCR		Migration	Dmitri Nacu



<i>Carolina Cazaciuc, Ombudsperson Office</i>	<i>Doina Iordan, CCR Alma Tabakovic, DRC</i>	<i>Valentina Bodrug-Lungu, Moldova Gender</i>	<i>Kyriakos Giaglis Larisa Dmitrievna</i>
<i>Cristian Slobodeaniuc, WFP</i>	<i>Ana Ursachi, REACH Sachiko Kumazawa, AAR</i>	<i>Vicente Palacios, ECHO Svetlana Bebic, ICRC Pippa Bown,</i>	<i>Natalia Morosanu Oxana Covalciuc</i>
<i>Daniele Pedretti, HelpAge</i>	<i>Ana Palii, SI (PM Soc. Coh)</i>	<i>British Embassy</i>	<i>Raisa Morazan</i>
<i>Aprada Ersilia, IOM</i>	<i>Scarlett Hawkins, NRC</i>	<i>Virgiliu Hangan, P4EC</i>	<i>Natalia Skaletki</i>
<i>Elena Taran, IOM</i>	<i>Diana Prisacaru, APSCF</i>	<i>Vera Gurievschi</i>	<i>Scutelnic Dmitrii</i>
<i>Loredana Roscovan, IOM</i>	<i>Oleg Hincu, Palladium</i>	<i>Irina, Laolalta</i>	<i>Mary Khozomba</i>
<i>Sergiu Zubco, IOM</i>	<i>Diana Alexei, Chisinau City</i>	<i>Iulia Drozdov</i>	
<i>Veronica Bubuic, IOM</i>	<i>Hall</i>	<i>Lazareva Elena</i>	
<i>Evghenia Hiora, UN Women</i>	<i>Liuba Ceban, Altruism</i>	<i>Maria Talmazan</i>	
<i>Maryna Bozkurt, OHCHR</i>	<i>Natalia, Tarna Rom</i>		



Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p>Agenda Point 1</p> <p>Welcome & Review of Agenda</p> <p><i>Andrew Painter, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR</i></p> <p>painter@unhcr.org</p>	<p>The PWG co-chair 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: sivkovas@unhcr.org</p>	<p>Agenda presented and agreed</p>



<p>Agenda Point 2</p> <p><i>Andrew Painter, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR</i> painter@unhcr.org</p> <p><i>Suenanica de Rozario, Registration and Identity Management Officer</i> derozari@unhcr.org</p> <p><i>Monica Vazquez, External Relations Officer</i> vazquezm@unhcr.org</p> <p><i>Alberto Tonon, Disability and Inclusion Specialist</i> tonon@unhcr.org</p> <p><i>Sean Sager, Protection Officer, UNHCR</i> sager@unhcr.org</p>	<p>UNHCR co-chair introduced the recent change to the UNHCR’s cash assistance program.</p> <p>Starting on 31 January 2024, UNHCR's cash assistance eligibility will require beneficiaries to possess a secure legal status in Moldova. While other criteria for cash programs remain unchanged, Moldovan nationals will no longer qualify for this assistance. However, vulnerable individuals lacking legal status in Moldova (such as UASC and bedridden refugees in Transnistria) will be considered on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Existing beneficiaries of UNHCR's cash assistance program must update their legal status at the cash enrollment centers within two months to continue receiving aid. For refugees without legal status, obtaining Temporary Protection (TP) is the most accessible route in Moldova. (Currently, there are approximately 33,000 pre-enrolled individuals and 25,779 TP card holders.)</p> <p>Terms of Reference (TOR) are currently in development and will be distributed once finalized.</p> <p>UNHCR registration officer on the verification of legal status for the cash assistance program:</p> <p>All refugees will have to demonstrate their legal status to the registration offices to continue receiving their cash assistance. The first option is to come to the cash enrollment centers to update their status in-person. When registering in-person, the beneficiaries are not required to have an</p>	
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appointment with the cash enrollment center office to come and update their status in-person. There are 7 cash enrolment Centers and they are operational Monday – Friday between 9:00 – 17:00.

The documents to be accepted to verify legal status in Moldova are:

- Temporary Protection identity card
- Asylum-seeker Beneficiary ID
- Stateless Applicant ID
- Stateless Status ID
- Humanitarian Protection ID/certificate

The second option is to update their status online using the [TP bot form](#); this option is only available for TP card holders. The beneficiaries need to enter their ID which can be found on the proof of enrollment and then they enter their IDNP number which can be found at the bottom of the TP ID card. The last step is to upload a photo of the TP card front side.

UNHCR External Relation Officer on the access to information for refugees in Moldova

The information about the cash assistance for refugees in Moldova can be accessed via the [UNCHR information portal](#).

There is also an existing hotline for cash on the phone number *0 800 10823*, where refugees can ask about the eligibility criteria and legal status verification.



AAP TF representative informed on FAQ development and discussion with the refugee population.

Based on the feedback from the refugee population, there were no negative reactions connected to the above-mentioned announcement. Some doubts were expressed in connection to the person with dual citizenship and their access to cash assistance as well as questions about the renewal of the TP status in Moldova.

The FAQ document is being updated daily to cover all new information.

Comments & Discussions:

UNHCR explained that only one representative per family needs to go to the center to update all family members' statuses.

A representative from **ECHO** asked about the vulnerable categories of people who may be having problems with the verification of their legal status and if the request for verification was initiated from UNHCR or from the government. UNHCR informed that the vulnerable groups may encompass individuals living in TN, TCNs, non-Ukrainian family members, and LGBTIQ+ groups. UNHCR informed that the decision to require the legal status in Moldova was based on a discussion with the government. However, it is also connected to the change in UNHCR's policy to focus on the most vulnerable refugees. **IOM** specified that there are special programs for assisting bedridden persons in TN and cash assistance programs for vulnerable persons. For now, there are about 2000 beneficiaries of IOM cash assistance.



	<p>A representative from the organization Zdorovii Gorod inquired about individuals with double citizenship and their access to cash assistance. UNHCR explained that, unlike refugees, persons with double citizenship should be able to apply for social assistance and cash assistance programs provided by the government. There are also existing programs for assistance to Moldovan citizens from UNDP or UNFPA specializing in assistance to vulnerable populations, complementing the social assistance programs. UNHCR may advocate with the government to share more information about the social protection programs.</p>	
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<p>Agenda Point 3</p> <p>AOB</p> <p><i>Catalina Sampaio, Operations Officer, UNHCR</i> sampaio@unhcr.org</p> <p><i>Andrew Painter, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR</i> painter@unhcr.org</p>	<p>UNHCR encouraged the PWG members to their beneficiaries and partners for the upcoming TP enrollment Fair that will be held on Saturday, 16 December in Chisinau, from 8:30 – 17:00. UNHCR in assistance with CDA, DRC and CRS, is prepared to receive in maximal capacity around 200 refugees. The invitation will be shared with the PWG later on.</p> <p>UNHCR informed about the upcoming RRP 2024 Planning Retreat to be held on 25 January 2024. This meeting will be held to discuss the overview of the 2023 response and building the 2024 work plan for PWG. More information and save-the-date notification will be shared with the PWG.</p> <p>UNHCR informed about the call for application for PWG members to apply for the PAG selection panel. Only those who did not apply for the PAG membership are eligible to apply for this selection panel. The call for applications is open until 5 January.</p> <p>UNHCR informed about the PWG Capacity Building sessions. In 2023, a total of 10 PWG Capacity Building sessions were delivered to more than 580 participants. UNHCR will distribute a new survey at the end of 2023 to inquire with the PWG members about their interest and feedback for the previous capacity building sessions as well as their capability to facilitate training for PWG.</p>	<p>UNHCR will share the invitation cards with PWG.</p> <p>UNHCR will share the save-the-date for the RRP 2024 Planning Retreat.</p> <p>UNHCR will share the call for applications for the PAG selection panel form.</p> <p>UNHCR will share the survey on PWG Capacity Building 2024.</p>
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Regional Refugee Response
for the Ukraine Situation



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for the Ukraine Situation

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.