

POLAND PROTECTION SECTOR MEETING

Meeting Minutes – 23 March 2023, 2 PM

Meeting subject:	Monthly Protection Sector Meeting
Time & location:	2pm, hybrid meeting
Chaired by:	UNHCR, HFHR
Minutes prepared by:	UNHCR
Participants:	Towards Dialogue, Halina Niec Legal Aid Centre, WHO, Fundacja Q, Fundacja dla Migrantów „Dobry Start”, REACH, PAH, SIP, Oxfam, Safe Passage, CARE, Roma Council, Voice, FDDS, IRC, ICRC, PUI, IMC, DRC, Project HOPE, Faros Elpidas, Action Against Hunger, Americares, NCM, Plan International, CLEAR Global, Jaw Dikh Foundation and Centre of Migration Research, IOM, UNICEF, La Strada, Faros Elpidas, Loop, Clear Global, HIAS, Lutheran World Federation, A2, Polish Red Cross, HIACV, Save the Children, Mercy Corps, Habitat, PCK, Support to Life, Corus International, Soleterre, Two Birds, Caritas, Happy Kids, IFRC, University of Warsaw, Unbreakable Ukraine Foundation, ELIL, Ovum Association, RET International, PSAR
Agenda:	Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none">• PS: Introduction – 5 min• PS: Establishing a joint mechanism to monitor the impact of amendments to the Special Act – 20 min• GBV: International Women’s Day – 5 min• GBV: GBV training assessment – 10 min• GBV: Human rights, needs and discrimination - The situation of Roma refugees from Ukraine in Poland from a gender perspective – 20 min• AT: 2022 challenges, developments and present IOM’s response particularly with a focus on 2023 – 20 min• MHPSS: updates and discussions from Health/MHPSS meeting – 20 min• AOB
AGENDA POINT	DISCUSSION
Introductions and Overview	Participants were welcomed to the twenty-fifth Protection Sector meeting for the Refugee Response on Poland. The agenda was presented. An update on the status of action points from the previous meeting was provided.

<p>Agenda point 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Blue Card tool used since 2011 (decree of the Council of Ministers), composed of 4 forms (<u>A, B, C and D</u>) ○ Procedure can be initiated police, health sector, educational system or the military when there is a suspicion of violence in the family ○ Form A filled out by the actor, <u>Form B</u> is filled out by the victim and contains information on where to seek help ○ <u>Form A</u> then passed down to the team responsible for starting the GBV procedure, 3 days allotted to start a working group to help the victim. In most cases, the victim is then invited to a meeting in a safe place, the perpetrator is not part of the procedure. During the meeting, discussion of how the team can help the victim. <u>Form C</u> is the plan for assistance. ○ There is a coordinator who is the intermediary between the team and the victim. <u>Form D</u> contains information regarding the perpetrator, the perpetrator is invited to be part of 24 meetings for perpetrators aimed at correcting their behaviors. ○ The procedure continues till there is no more violence, and a protocol is written down by the head of the inter-disciplinary team. ○ <u>Barriers to refugees to access Blue Card procedure:</u> The center doesn't have information about this, form B is also available in Ukrainian. ○ <u>UNHCR on GBV referral pathway and Blue Card procedure:</u> Blue Card is part of the GBV referral pathway and UNHCR is currently working on localized referral pathways, two organizations that can initiate procedure. ○ <u>PMF question regarding the involvement of NGOs in the interdisciplinary team:</u> no duty to inform NGOs, which makes involvement more difficult ○ <u>DRC question about NGO support on providing therapeutic interventions to perpetrators and barriers to refugees in accessing procedure:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gdynia has blue patrols, Specialist Centre in Gdynia able to provide support and provides assistance in Belarusian and Ukrainian which reduces issues of language barriers. ▪ <u>Specialist Centre in Gdynia</u> has a shelter, the victim can apply for an order to leave an apartment for 14 days. Legal changes are in place, but varied implementation, so shelter is still needed. The address of the hostel in Gdynia is secret but the address for psychological help/information about shelters is available. <p><u>From UNHCR's side,</u> not yet UNHCR assessment of GBV barriers to reporting experienced by refugees. In general, barriers include stigma, fear to report as husband fighting in the war and will appear unappreciative. Upcoming UNHCR GBV audit to provide overview on barriers experienced by different groups (Roma, elderly etc.)</p>
<p>Agenda point 2</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UNHCR Protection Monitoring (PM) tools regionally harmonized ○ UNHCR leading PM in Poland, interest from protection agencies and 7 organizations submitted requests under the RRP. UNHCR is responsible for harmonizing the approach to PM, as in other countries. ○ IRC, IOM conducting surveys in the field, UNHCR open to collaboration with other organizations on analysis of the data with organizations that don't have PM but have, for example, legal or other partners able to contribute.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UNHCR looking for organization to compliment rather than create new tools ○ PM monitoring data is publicly available (anonymized). UNHCR also publishes briefs, based household surveys and FGDs. ○ <u>Proposing a PM Task force to meet bi-weekly</u> on a technical level, for joint drafting of analysis and each organization would be represented by a focal point. PM Task force for a short period of time, to share information and work on joint output. ○ <u>DRC keen to include re-visiting PM tools as part of the PM Task Force ToRs:</u> UNHCR questionnaires updated every 3 months, new modules added ad hoc (for example around September to get data on education). If specific issues to be included in household surveys, UNHCR welcomes adding further questions to tools in the form of modules. Household surveys should not be the only mode of analysis, so additional discussions on data collection mechanisms from social media, FGDs, other modalities, are welcome (esp. from organizations working on the field level).
Agenda point 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Project Hope presentation, books on Integration in Polish society available upon request ○ Zustric providing psychosocial assistance in Krakow and organization Dostepny Swiat providing assistance to psychosocial support and physiotherapy ○ Clear Global, translators without borders, provided recommendations on translation of materials ○ Glossary of terms in Polish/Ukrainian and English will be prepared by the group
Agenda point 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ National center has a 24/7 hotline to respond to victims of human trafficking, so main work in responding to needs of victims that are reported. ○ Before the war, La Strada focusing on victims of human trafficking, since the war, La Strada trying not to refer Ukrainians anywhere as other organizations are overloaded. The organizations therefore using lawyers for other legal matters not related to human trafficking. ○ Situation of victims of human trafficking from other countries has become more difficult, due to focus of organization on Ukrainian refugees. ○ La Strada reporting to training needs of entities regarding application/practice of law, which is one of the main projects. Also training NGOs and informal groups. ○ Main concerns: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recruitment of Ukrainian refugees for cross-border criminal activities ▪ People from Ukraine working in the grey zone, in return for shelter and food (without pay), not particularly human trafficking but if it remains unpenalized then it will become more prevalent ▪ Apparent stigma related to being a victim of human trafficking, lower reporting rates ▪ Online recruitment of victims (especially of women, with additional risk to children) and the need to raise awareness among victims ○ Current work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a small study regarding safety of children in foster care, Ministry of Internal Affairs issuing an instruction on

	<p>checking their safety. The results will be published. Emerging that enforcement agencies sensitive to all signals concerning human trafficking of Ukrainians;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ project delivering basic products at the Central Station ○ The organization produces anti-trafficking materials, including a calendar with good pieces of advice on how to avoid becoming a VoT. ○ <u>Question from Towards Dialogue:</u> Need for additional materials to ensure materials reach those who do not speak Ukrainian. There is a comic created by a Slovak organization to target illiterate people (Romani refugees) ○ <u>ICRC question regarding cases about the exploitation of children, and prevalence of exploitation among unaccompanied children from Ukraine:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For 3 years, La Strada worked with 14 teenage girls from Africa, 1 case of a 15-year-old girl from Ukraine who was brought to Poland for work. She was pushed to work as a housekeeper/au pair against her will. Not as many cases of forced work, as opposed to sex work. ▪ Another case of a 16-year-old Roma boy from Ukraine pushed to work by his mother. Unclear how many cases behind the individual cases brought to La Strada but can ask Police officers as able to request through working groups (also with Ministries). ○ Additionally, Safe Travel & Work Abroad application tool, also available in the Roma version. La Strada currently working on app for Ukrainian youth.
<p>Agenda point 5</p>	<p>IOM presented 2022 challenges, developments and present IOM’s response particularly with a focus on 2023. The current CT strategy comprises four pillars: i) prevention (through awareness raising, mitigating vulnerabilities, assisting vulnerable populations); ii) protection (through identification, referral, assistance, case management); iii) prosecution (through support to law enforcement, police authorities, border guards and guidance on victim-centred approaches); iv) partnership (through coordination across agencies). The CT strategy is based on a holistic approach comprising activities aimed at satisfying basic needs to refugees from Ukraine coming to Poland, including provision of essential assistance to UKR and TCNS, vulnerable screenings, presence in collective shelters, monitoring, reporting to law enforcement (last year there were 5 cases notified to BG/police), mapping support for victims, information activities (leaflets, posters, which are distributed in collective shelters and border crossing points), referrals for short or long term accommodation, CBI distribution, awareness raising sessions for refugee population. Field Protection teams are present in Warsaw and Podkarpacie and provide tailored assistance to persons with disabilities, GBV human trafficking survivors, UASC, and elderly. As part of CT’s strategy more than 500 persons were trained in 2022, mainly representative of polish forces, police, municipalities, local authorities. Such trainings covered CT but also antidiscrimination and intercultural discrimination, GBV, PSEA, CP and vulnerable cases identification. Between April and December 2022 cost-free accommodation was provided for 5008 persons, of which 12% of the bookings were made for TCNs. IOM’s Infoline provided over 8 thousands consultations, the majority of which were provided to UKR nationals. As for 2023 plans, the main activities will include: i) a cross-country campaign on CT; ii) CT trainings to LOT airlines, collective shelters’ personnel, BG and law enforcement authorities on international humanitarian standards, vulnerability identification, risk assessment and assistance to</p>

	vulnerable groups.
Agenda point 6	Updates from last MHPSS TWG's meeting on 10 th February were presented. The MHPSS TWG's priorities and workplan were circulated in an email for feedback and will be finalized and shared with Partners. Collection of information on MHPPS assessments with IMWG is ongoing and will be launched this year. More details on two trainings opportunities will be shared by WHO.

ACTION POINTS SUMMARY				
No.	Action	Responsible	Deadline	Status
1.	Presentation on joint monitoring framework to be shared and feedback to be provided	UNHCR and all partners	asap	Completed