

Poland - Child Protection Sub Working Group

Meeting Minutes – 23 March 2022

Meeting subject:	Weekly National Child Protection Sub-Working Group Meeting
Time & location:	Wednesdays, 14:00 - 15:30 hrs, virtual meeting
Chaired by:	Renata Szredzińska - FDDS, Sophie Etzold - UNHCR, Daniela Knoppik - UNICEF
Minutes prepared by:	Daniela Knoppik, UNICEF
Participants:	Olga Revuk, Deputy Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine for European Integration; Monika Mrowczynska, Gość; Marta Harasiuk, Gość; Kateryna Krakhmalova; Joanna Kuzewska, FPMW; Aleksandra Wesołowska, Bank of Breast Milk Foundation; Aga Macura, TWB/CLEAR Global; Aleksandra Needham, US Department of State; Caterina Franchi, Safe Passage International; David Gvineria, UNICEF; İrem Göl, SGDD Asam; Renata Szredzińska, FDDS: Anna Krawczak, FDDS; Tatyana Fannouch, UNICEF; Łukasz Tomik, Happy Kids; François Kernin, UNHCR; Sophie Etzold, UNHCR; Polat Kizildag, UNICEF; Ada Tymińska, HFHR; Tasha Gill, UNICEF; Oksana Kryvytska, UNICEF; Mariano Mariano Griva, ICRC; Selma Sevkli, WHO; Aleksandra Wisniewska, PAH; Chrystalla Katsapaou, UNHCR: Jennifer Weatherall, CRS; Bianka Zyra, Plan International; Piotr Lukawsk, SOS-WD; Paola Toffetti, NRC; Clare Bathgate, Plan International; Hanna Dobrzynska, IOM; Parekh Roshni, DFID; Samar Ali, Save the Children; Nazli Merve Erkan, IFRC: Beata Kulig, SOS-WD; Manuela Repaci, IMC; Nina Mocior, PAH; Camille Andre, IRC; Niki Ignatiou, Action Aid; Safi Lashley, RET; Julia Szymczakiewicz, UNGC; Başak Kütahya, SGGD-ASAM; Amy Greenbank, CARE; Kevin McNulty, Mercy Corps; Lorett Jesudoss, UNHCR; Siobhan Foran, CARE; Durkeft Said Tahir, Premiere Urgence; Elisa Bongiovanni, The Red Pencil; IFRC RRMHPSS Poland; Elaha Nayab, INTERSOS; Julia Grasset, Save the Children; Donatella Bradic, IOM; Zofia Piwowarek, UNGC; Ben Cope, Ukraiński Dom; Lorie Davidson, LIRS; Pamela Dale, UNICEF; Katharina Witkowski, Plan International; Tommy Bouchiba, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe; Tamsin Blake, Medair; Seng Peng, coreresponse; Eleftherios Konstantopoulos, UNHCR; Christine Heckman, UNICEF; Pantelis Demetriou, Faros Elpidas; Quentin Le Gallo, ECHO; Samantha Allen, IRC; Elena Wasylew, MSF; Olivia Singer, DFID; Jennifer McAteer, Plan International; Paola Castiati, CARE; Caoimhe Nic A Bhaird, UNICEF; Martina Tomic-Latinac, UNICEF; Daniela Knoppik, UNICEF
Agenda:	<p>Agenda</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Update on coordination: introducing co-leads: Renata from FDDS, Sophie from UNHCR 2) Unaccompanied and Separated Children: what procedures are currently in place? 3) Joint discussion with Cash WG: key considerations on cash and UAC 4) AOB
AGENDA POINT	Update on coordination

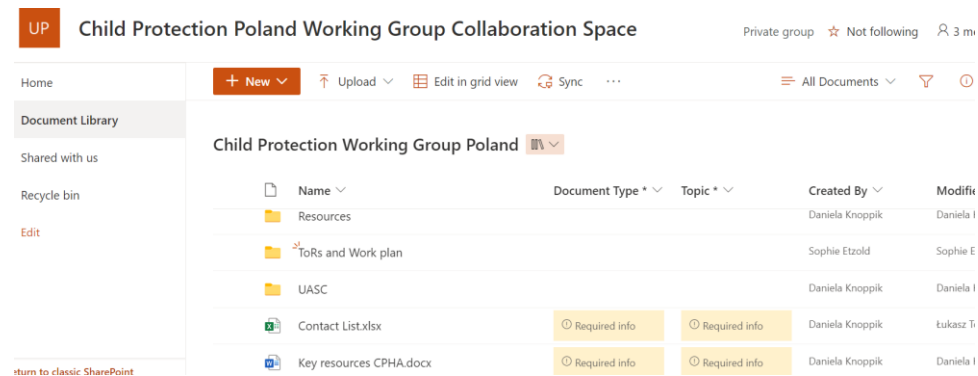
Agenda point 1

In addition to UNICEF, two co-leads of the CPSWG were announced: Renata Szredzińska - FDDS, Sophie Etzold – UNHCR
Draft Terms of Reference for the CPSWG will be circulated for feedback with the goal of endorsing the ToR during the next meeting.

A collaboration website (on sharepoint) was set up and can be accessed via the following link: <https://unicef.sharepoint.com/teams/ECARO-URP/DocumentLibrary2/Forms/AllItems.aspx?csf=1&web=1&e=KUd2Dw&cid=fd6259df%2D2342%2D4d49%2Da8f8%2Df4418478f5eb&FolderCTID=0x012000ACB5DE69C39A0A41A0249E92BEB543B2&viewid=0999db9f%2Da08b%2D4730%2Db909%2D78b4a1ebfe50>

Reminder to CPSWG partners to please update their contact details, share any relevant resources for the collaboration space with the co-leads, and reach out to dknoppik@unicef.org in case of any problems to access the collaboration website.

This is what the website collaboration space looks like:



UP Child Protection Poland Working Group Collaboration Space Private group ☆ Not following 3 mi

Home + New Upload Edit in grid view Sync All Documents

Document Library

Shared with us Child Protection Working Group Poland

Name	Document Type	Topic	Created By	Modified
Resources			Daniela Knoppik	Daniela I
ToRs and Work plan			Sophie Etzold	Sophie E
UASC			Daniela Knoppik	Daniela I
Contact List.xlsx	Required info	Required info	Daniela Knoppik	Łukasz T
Key resources CPHA.docx	Required info	Required info	Daniela Knoppik	Daniela I

Return to classic SharePoint

Agenda point 2

Please refer to presentation for additional information:



Final PPP CP SWG
23.03.2022.pdf

Unaccompanied and Separated Children (UASC): what procedures are currently in place

Presentation of Olga Revuk - Deputy Minister of Social Policy of Ukraine for European Integration

- Memorandum of Understanding being signed between the Governments of Poland and Ukraine to put in place guidelines and procedures to provide protection and access to services for UASC; entails provisions for children to return to Ukraine once conditions are safe (MoU not publicly available yet, once signed will be presented and shared)

- Need to ensure children have access to adequate social support, including children who are evacuated from residential care facilities and without parental support; stressed access to education, health, social assistance
- Need support for evacuation, starting on Ukrainian side – local and regional authorities are issuing permissions for evacuations
- Collaboration with NGOs and stakeholders ongoing who are willing to help
- Maryna Lazebna, Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, met with several European countries to discuss provisions for children (evacuation) to other European countries
- Scope of aid needed: humanitarian corridors and humanitarian aid; high number of IDPs;

Q&A with Ms Revuk:

Q: MoU publicly available?

A: Currently in draft format, once signed will be presented and shared.

Q: What about reunification of UAC with family members in other countries, such as the UK or other parts of Europe- is the GoU's position to facilitate this reunification or keep children in Poland, closer to the border?

A: This depends on the decision made by the Regional State Authorities, which are responsible for the children and exploring opportunities for evacuation; security concerns and best interest of the child are taken into account.

Q: For children coming with foster care givers, are there any plans to formalize care arrangements through the Polish system ?

A: Children coming with foster families will be able to access support in Poland

NB: This can be tabled again for further discussion and guidance form local partners re: current procedures in place

Q: When children and caregivers are evacuated as a unit (female caregiver with children) – what is the plan to formalize this arrangement within Polish foster care system so they receive financial support, housing support, monitoring support- being considered a Polish foster home?

A: Caregivers can register for a PESEL number and children will have access to social support services.

Q: What is the best way for NGOs to support evacuations: should NGOs wait for the MoU to be signed? Are evacuations currently on hold? Is there need of evacuation now? Will information on upcoming evacuations come from a centralised system on the Polish or Ukrainian side? Will all children go to Stalowa Wola first?

A: All children who cross the border need to be registered in Stalowa Wola; MoU does not put restrictions on evacuation of children. Evacuation is now under the national state service and the responsibility of regional authorities; NGOs wanting support with evacuation of groups to receive information from Ukrainian side.

The decision to evacuate groups of children is taken by local or regional authorities, which inform the Ministry of Social Policy and State National Service; Ministry of Social Policy in Ukraine then informs Polish side.

Suggested key priorities as a CP SWG to support UASC:

- Need to have common documentation system in place (through national or other established system where there is need to identify children and make refer to national case management services)
- Compile and share guidelines, including between governments
- Explore whether there should be a taskforce with government/ government-led; recommendation for now to continue discussing this topic in the CP SWG
- Map and share referral pathway and prioritize access to services, including national CP system have focal points in place (who to contact for which location)
- Training and capacity building (Best Interest Procedures, close involvement with government; child safeguarding; parenting skills and programmes – expand to any caregiver within the family)
- Family tracing and reunification
- National level and longer-term system strengthening
- Differentiate: UASC include: accompanied but separated children, evacuated children (may be accompanied by caretakers within institutions) – prioritize different streams of response
- Strengthening capacity of guardians, guardianship system, strengthen social workforce in applying BID tools
- Burden on Child Protection system: emphasis given to prevention of family separation

Helsinki foundation:

- In terms of priorities: with the new Special Act in Poland, provisions on UAC are changing; HF is training institutions, including Family Court on the new provisions. There have been signals from Family Courts that they have challenges applying the new laws and identifying/determining the Best Interest of children who come with relatives.
- There needs to be monitoring of the situation of UAC who do not have Ukrainian citizenship as they are not covered by the new Special Act, but old legal provisions.

Action Points:

- Memorandum will be shared by co-leads once it becomes publicly available
- Partners to share feedback on recommendations and keep CP SWG members updated on initiatives (ongoing)

Agenda point 3

Joint discussion with Cash WG: key considerations on cash and UAC

UNHCR and UNICEF guidelines on cash assistance and UAC can be found on the sharepoint collaboration space

Please refer to presentation

Discussion:

- Concern: Partners rolling out cash programmes without consulting with CP SWG; Cash is a quick fix, but can create harms and risks if not well-designed
- Guidance: cash actors to work with CP actors; need strong protection approach to minimize harms
- Focus needs to be on a strong referral system- including mapping of hotlines
- Voivodship has dedicated information hotline where Ukrainian families can access info (where to register, access housing and other services)
- Various cities in Poland also have hotlines
- For any questions not answered through the existing hotlines, FDDS offered to be the contact person, but recognized something more permanent needs to be set up to address specific questions

Referral contacts:

- Office for Evacuation of Unaccompanied Minors: Sztab Ewakuacji Dzieci pozbawionych opieki, Tel. 532 402 575, ewakuacjadzieci@mrips.gov.pl
- For finding accommodation: Sztab miejsca dla dzieci Tel. 666 383 956, miejscadladzieci@mrpis.gov.pl

Provision in the new Special Act:

- all children under the age of 18 have to be referred to Family Court and court has 2 days to establish temporary carers, who are responsible for safety and financial, health and educational decisions and personal protection (universal, holistic approach)
- All Ukrainian children treated as Polish children
- Temporary carer: needs to be guided by thorough assessment; there must be an applicant to put in request for a temporary carer to be assigned – currently it is not clear how the procedure will be applied (who can put in application)
- Concerns around discrepancies between process for Ukrainian children and children of other nationalities (Third-Country nationals); previously, the system to appoint guardians for UAC had many shortfalls

Engage for all children on the move

- While a new taskforce on Third-Country Nationals has been established (under IOM), there is a need to ensure the CPSWG is a forum to discuss protection risks and barriers to accessing services for all children on the move
- This includes jointly identifying protection gaps, discrimination against third-country nationals and jointly identifying opportunities to make the current system more inclusive for all

AOB	The next weekly CPSWG meeting will take place on Wednesday, 30 March, at 2PM. An agenda will be circulated.
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ACTION POINTS SUMMARY				
No.	Action	Responsible	Deadline	Status
1.	Review and provide feedback, as necessary, to the draft TORs for the CPSWG Reminder to CPSWG partners to please update their contact details in the Excel sheet on the sharepoint collaboration website and reach out to dknoppik@unicef.org in case of any problems to access the collaboration website.	All partners	29 March	Pending
2.	Provide feedback on priority topics for upcoming meetings	Interested partners	29 March	Pending
3.	Co-leads to share guidelines on UAC (MoU between Governments of Poland and Ukraine) as they become available	FDSD, UNHCR, UNICEF	As MoU and other guidelines become available	Pending
4.	Co-leads to keep CPWSG members informed on development of recommendations around cash assistance	FDSD, UNHCR, UNICEF		Pending