

## POLAND NATIONAL PROTECTION SECTOR MEETING

Meeting Minutes – 31 March 2022

<b>Meeting subject:</b>	Weekly National Protection Sector Meeting
<b>Time &amp; location:</b>	2pm, online meeting
<b>Chaired by:</b>	Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights; UNHCR
<b>Minutes prepared by:</b>	UNHCR
<b>Participants:</b>	A21; Action Aid; Americares; ASAM; AVSI; Bibliothèques Sans Frontières; CRS; Faros Lepidas; Halina Niec Legal Aid Center; Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights; ICRC; IFRC; Intersos; IOM; IRC; Lutheran world; Mercy Corps; MSF; NCA; NED; Oxfam; Plan International; Polish Humanitarian Action; Premiere Urgence; Relief International; RET International; UN Global Compact Network Poland; UNHCR; UNICEF; US State Department; REACH; Safe passage; Save the Children; The Red Pencil; WHO.
<b>Agenda:</b>	<p><b>Agenda</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1) Coordination updates<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Action points from the previous meeting</li><li>• Update on RRP Submissions</li><li>• Update on legal framework</li></ul></li><li>2) Updates from the Protection Sub-sectors and other relevant coordination groups:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Child Protection Sub-Sector</li><li>• Gender-based Violence Sub-sector</li><li>• MHPSS Working Group</li><li>• CWC Working Group</li><li>• PSEA Network</li></ul></li><li>3) Exchange on cash and protection</li><li>4) AOB</li></ol>
<b>AGENDA POINT</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>
<b>Introductions and Overview</b>	Participants were welcomed to the fourth weekly Protection Sector meeting for the Refugee Response on Poland. The agenda was presented.

<p><b>Agenda point 1</b></p>	<p>A brief update was provided on the status of action points from the last meeting:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The final amendments to the draft TORs of the Protection Sector were presented. The final document will be circulated by end of the week.</li> <li>2) The next meeting of the volunteer capacity development taskforce will take place on Monday 4 April at 3pm. To participate, interested partners should write to: Samantha Davis <a href="mailto:S.Davis@savethechildren.org.uk">S.Davis@savethechildren.org.uk</a>; Bathgate, Clare <a href="mailto:clare.Bathgate@plan-international.org">clare.Bathgate@plan-international.org</a>; and Georgina Campbell <a href="mailto:gcampbell@InternationalMedicalCorps.org.uk">gcampbell@InternationalMedicalCorps.org.uk</a></li> </ol> <p>Several updates were shared and discussed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) The revised planning parameters for the Poland Refugee Response Plan (RRP) were presented. Participants were informed about the modalities to revise their initial project submissions and, for those who did not initially participate, to submit a new project.</li> <li>2) The Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights shared an update on the legal framework. Two amendments to the Act on Assistance to Ukrainian Citizens in the Context of the Armed Conflict in Ukraine were adopted. The first amendment broadens the group of Ukrainians who are allowed to receive assistance granted in the Act, encompassing every Ukrainian who left Ukraine and came into Poland after 24 February, even if they did not come directly from Ukraine. The second amendment concerns unaccompanied children and children in foster care. The government will create a special record of minors who entered Poland without a legal guardian or who had been placed in foster care in Ukraine. The Minister of Family and Social Policy will be responsible for creating the record.</li> <li>3) National protection partners are reportedly scaling up. Coordination with local authorities remains a challenge. Increased participation of national actors in the Protection Sector meetings was encouraged.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Agenda point 2</b></p>	<p>Updates from the Protection Sub-sectors and other relevant coordination groups were shared:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Child Protection Sub-Sector</b> TORs for the CP SS were drafted and circulated. The MoU between GoP and GoU on the evacuation of unaccompanied children from Ukraine to Poland was translated into English and circulated. Work is ongoing to develop referral pathways for child survivors of violence and Unaccompanied children.</li> </ul>

	<p>The main child protection risks identified to date include: separation of children; challenges of parents and caregivers to adequately care; risk of trafficking of children from borders and reception sites; risk of GBV against children; high levels of distress/MHPSS needs amongst children and caregivers; heightened risk of children with disability; limited awareness on child-friendly procedures and child protection risks at borders and of other stakeholders; timely enrolment to education and risk of increasing host community tensions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Gender-based Violence (GBV) Sub-Sector</b> GBV partners were encouraged to submit projects under the RRP, especially as regards GBV risk mitigation, case management, services for GBV survivors, women and girls’ safe spaces and safe shelters. GBV actors doing case management were encouraged to reach out to Loretta Jesudoss (jesudoss@unhcr.org)</li> <li>▪ <b>Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Technical Working Group (TWG)</b> The MHPSS TWG involves 60+ agencies. Efforts are ongoing to facilitate inclusion of Polish NGOs and to identify relevant training and tools for humanitarian actors. TORs of the group are being finalized. A service mapping from MOH is being translated and will be circulated to all partners. It was noted that many services are localized at the municipality level and require a bottom-up approach. An update was provided on access to psychotropic medication. Any health referrals on for people with mental health and psychosocial conditions are to be directed through the Primary Health care system, i.e. family physicians. Ukrainian psychologists may soon be allowed to work in Poland.</li> <li>▪ <b>PSEA Network</b> 13 agencies are regularly participating. Polish actors are encouraged to participate. A call for expression of interest to be the national co-lead of the group was issued. The Draft TORs are being finalized. A draft risk assessment tool was developed to map risks and capacities. Capacity development remains a priority, including training provided directly in Polish language. An action plan is in the pipeline, looking at prevention, training and sensitization, safe reporting and feedback mechanisms.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Agenda point 3</b></p>	<p>As requested by participants during last week Protection Sector meeting, a discussion of cash and protection was facilitated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNHCR presented its cash assistance program. Two referral pathways are available for assistance: 1) Refugees can self-refer using a <a href="#">self-referral form</a> and 2) protection partners can refer cases they identified as being at high risk for prioritized assistance through a dedicated <a href="#">referral form</a>.</li> <li>• Child protection considerations for cash assistance were also discussed. A guidance note is being developed and will be shared with partners for review, noting for instance that children and unaccompanied children have equal access to cash</li> </ul>

	<p>assistance with adequate safeguards for children at risk. In Poland, unaccompanied and separated children should have an appointed guardian prior to be included in cash assistance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The GBV sub-sector is also reviewing a regional guidance note on cash assistance and GBV, aligning standards and recommended approaches.</li> </ul>
<b>AOB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ IOM announced the establishment of working groups dedicated to counter-trafficking and third-country nationals.</li> <li>▪ The next weekly protection sector meeting will take place on 7 April at 2pm.</li> </ul>

<b>ACTION POINTS SUMMARY</b>				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Status (as of 12/04)</b>
1.	Final TORs for the Protection Sector to be circulated and uploaded on the data portal.	Co-leads	7 April	Completed
2.	Schedule a discussion on refugee registration, statistics and profiles.	Co-leads	7 April	Completed
3.	Share list of websites where Ukrainian professionals can be recruited for protection-related jobs.	MHPSS sector co-leads	7 April	Completed
4.	National partners interested to co-lead the PSEA network should reach out to Nadia Abu Amr (ABUAMR@unhcr.org)	All partners	7 April	Completed
5.	Launch of the mapping tool for referral to national services	UNHCR	3 April	Completed