

UKRAINE REFUGEE RESPONSE
Regional Sub-Working Group on Child Protection
Meeting Minutes

Time & location:	23 May 2022, at 15:00-16:15, online
Participants (in order of appearance):	<p>Lucia Kolpakova, UNHCR Barbora Marakova, UNHCR Randi Saure, Save the Children Łukasz Tomik, Happy Kids Katarzyna Lis-Monastyraska, Polish Red Cross Renee Lariviere, PRM Terry Smith, European Guardianship Network Vera Dragovic, UNHCR Sophie Etzold, UNHCR Sergii Lavrukhin, UNHCR Gatienne Jobit, TDH Aaron Greenberg, UNICEF (Chair) Eda Onde, UNHCR Michelle Fong Jia-Eyin, UNHCR Daniel Redondo, IOM Celina Jensen, Better Care Network Monica Gutierrez Arques, FRA Sarah Abitbol, Eurochild Ines Cerovic, UNICEF Igor Vorontsov, UNHCR Erin Geneva Macdonald, WHO Caroline Dulin Brass, UNHCR Tricia Young, Lumos Rebecca Smith, Save the Children Anita Queirazza, Plan International Hayk Khemchyan, UNICEF Nadia Akmoun, IOM</p>

Agenda:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction (UNICEF) 2. Presentation by Save the Children on CP work in the region (Randi Saure) 3. Debrief on Reference Group (Aaron Greenberg, UNICEF) 4. Debrief on CP Mission to Poland (UNHCR, Sophie Etzold) 5. Other updates on CP 6. Presentation of CP SWG External Monthly Update (Vera DOD, UNHCR) 7. AOB
AGENDA POINT	DISCUSSION
1) Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour de table
2) Presentation by Save the Children on CP work in the region (Randi Saure)	<p>Save the Children (STC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operating inside Ukraine since 2014; delivering essential humanitarian aid to children and families (winter kits, hygiene kits, cash grants, etc.). Following the escalation, working mainly through local partners. • STC works mainly in Romania, Poland and Lithuania. • In Romania, STC are working on different topics with the national partner organizations such as the institutionalization and support to foster care, including support to relocate the children from institutions in Ukraine, prevention of violence and abuse with provision of mental health and psychosocial support through psychologists, and provision of legal support to unaccompanied and separated children. STC are also working on the prevention and response to trafficking. Developing resources and materials for organizations working on different topics on child protection, including child safeguarding. • In Poland, STC is providing psychosocial support through safe spaces, including children's activities and therapeutic groups, including consultations to mothers and referrals to more specialized MHPSS services. MHPSS and SGBV support are integrated with support in education, nutrition, cash and voucher assistance (in four locations), etc. Registering families in centres, at border points, and through a self-registration system. • in Romania, activities performed through direct implementation. STC has outreach teams with social workers and cultural mediators, providing information, safe referrals, monitoring and protection by presence. This also includes cash and voucher assistance. • Investing in capacity building of local authorities, teacher and health workers, and others involved in child protection in emergencies. Providing support to centres with children from institutions in in Ukraine with the CFS PSS approach and non-formal education services. In Romania, STC performs protection monitoring. • Assessing needs and providing emergency humanitarian assistance at nine border crossings points between Ukraine and the Republic of Moldova. • In Lithuania, pre-conflict programmes have been scaled up, with a stronger child protection in emergencies profile. Have five child friendly spaces in existing registration centres where referrals, group activities, counselling, and recreational activities, etc. take place. Also present in 29 day-care centres, providing emotional and developmental support. For unaccompanied and separated children, working within the framework of agreements with host governments.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Received feedback that in Poland and Romania some of the coordination structures are stretched and that stronger involvement of NGOs in the coordination is needed; would welcome a discussion on in-country coordination, including across sectors. • The Moratorium on inter-country adoptions (ICA) has thus far been signed by 40 agencies, including by UNICEF and UNHCR; hoping to launch it tomorrow. • Working on forming a Care Group, bringing together a group of alternative care actors in the region. • SC has developed an online registration tool with safeguards in place. Can share more information about it. So many agencies operating so asking for more strong inter-country registration. <p>UNHCR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will pass the observations of STC on coordination structures in Poland and Romania to colleagues in the field. • In Poland, the government is not strongly present in coordination structures but NGOs are represented. Coordination is as strong as members' involvement. • On registration: there are 2,7 million persons already registered under TPD and what DG Home wants to see is harmonization of the registration, which is up to host governments. • In countries where there is cash enrollment, the UNHCR uses ProGres v4 for this purpose. <p>UNICEF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing STC's concerns on government ownership and proliferation of structures. • Coordination of CP sectors ought to be slightly reframed for the context. • Governments are using their systems to register children; the UN is not using a registration system/performing registration. <p>European Guardianship Network:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggest guardianship to become a standing agenda item.
<p>3) Debrief on Reference Group (Aaron Greenberg, UNICEF)</p>	<p>UNICEF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In collaboration with Eurochild and Child Circle, conducted a mapping of the legal and policy framework for children to prove the parental care and unaccompanied separated children in 13 countries (Czech Republic, Estonia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Spain and the United Kingdom) and an outline of key discussion issues related to the care and custodial arrangements for Ukrainian children in primarily the EU, but looking now beyond into other countries. • Took another step forward recently and, in close partnership with UNHCR and this SWG, initiating a legal regional study to analyse the legal issues affecting care and custodial arrangements and to propose recommendations for action that could be undertaken for review by key stakeholders convened in a reference group that includes: DG Justice, DG Home, Fundamental Rights Agency, Council of Europe, UNHCR, Eurochild and The Hague Conference on Private International Law. Looking at unpackaging the different responsibilities that arise to address family law arrangements, including foster care arrangements, day to day care, the migration and refugee dimensions of the child's situation, access to protection, access to durable solutions, etc. The legal study includes exploration of interactions between The Hague Convention on Parental Responsibility, the EU Temporary Protection Directive, the International Refugee law, the international child rights law and other protection instruments, with a view of gaining some clarity

	<p>on the information, safeguards and assistance that should be provided from a legal perspective. Intent on diving more deeply into at least six countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the moment, lack of clarity about which legal framework takes precedence, or how these legal frameworks should be relating to each other in decision making? Would like to discuss these issues also in the framework of the regional CP SWG, bring drafts for comments and inputs, etc., also since membership overlaps to certain extent. Will have a concept note for the legal regional study in the coming weeks. Following completion of the study, it could be endorsed by the regional CP SWG, followed by a joint statement. • The Committee on the Rights of the Child has asked UNICEF for inputs on the response to the Ukraine Ministry of Social Policy’s proposed MoU sent to EU MS. The MoU has some very good pieces in it, and has some very worrying pieces in it, one of them regarding placement of children into large institutions, and the other one being return of the children to Ukraine immediately following the cessation of the Martial Law. UNICEF is also working closely with the Ministry to reclassify these positions to Member States and make sure that children are put back in the centre of considerations.
<p>4) Debrief on CP Mission to Poland (UNHCR, Sophie Etzold)</p>	<div data-bbox="683 582 739 646" data-label="Image"> </div> <p data-bbox="616 651 817 702">Presentation%20RCP SWG%20meeting%20;</p> <p data-bbox="517 691 616 715">UNHCR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The mission covered last two months and involved the CP coordination function and oversight of the Blue Dots roll out, capacity-building and training, incl. on BIA. • In the Blue Dots, there are also cash centers, where ProGres v4 was used, and where BIA was performed in complex cases. • Drafted a few Guidance Notes, e.g. on cash-related aspects, programme aspects, monitoring of accommodation sites for UASC and residential care facilities; currently rolling out an online mapping tool for UASC in residential facilities. • 3.5 million Ukraine nationals and others have entered Poland; monitoring pendular movements; 50% of arrivals are children, also single mothers/caregivers. • Child separation is an outstanding issue and mothers who are overwhelmed by providing support to children. • There is no single legal act/institution that regulates CP in Poland; actual CP work is mainly performed at the level of municipalities. • Limited registration - no established database for registration and identification of UASC. • The caregivers in Ukraine have to send a letter to Poland and only then can an UASC leave for Poland. Protection gaps in 16-17 age group. • 616 children placed in foster care. 21,000 children have benefitted from guardianship. • CP coordination Sector in Poland has 20 members - 6 NGOs, 11 INGOs and 3 UN agencies. Overall coordination and integration of CP refugee response still needs more national leadership/ownership • For nationalities other than Ukrainian there is no available interpretation, and child involvement is inadequate. Process of family tracing and reunification has major gaps. • Long-term contingency: after the first RRP, discussions on education, services, returns, etc. are not really taking place. Community-level procedures and structures needs to be advocated for. • In the Polish CP system, there is a category of a “legal guardian”- entailing a quick process of formalization, and a category of

	<p>“temporary guardian”- for which the assessment and processes are not so clearly defined.</p> <p>UNICEF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The category of “legal guardian”, which also implies language abilities, needs addressing by the authorities, including at the municipal level, and requires support through funding.
5) Other updates on CP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NSTR
6) Presentation of CP SWG External Monthly Update (UNHCR)	<p>UNHCR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposing that the regional CP SWG issues a monthly, external interagency CP Update, and welcoming inputs on the mockup design and content.
7) AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next Regional CP SWG meeting will take place on 6 June 2022 at 3 PM. Expressions of interest in presenting in the coming meeting to be referred to Aron Greenberg agreenberg@unicef.org , Caroline Dulin Brass dulin@unhcr.org or Sergii Lavrukhin lavrukhi@unhcr.org . Final version of the ToRs for the CP SWG to be shared by email following the meeting.

No.	Action	FP	Status
1.	Share Regional CP SWG Final Version ToR and CP External Update Mockup for inputs	Vera (UNHCR)	done
2.	Share information on the online registration tool	Randi (STC)	pending
3.	Place in-country coordination, registration & tracing/family reunification on the agenda of upcoming meeting(s)	UNHCR/UNICEF	pending