


**Ukraine Refugee Situation
Regional Protection Working Group (RPWG) Meeting
08 April 2022, 15h-16h30**

I. Participants (in alphabetical order):

Habitat for Humanity
HelpAge
ICVA
INTERPOL
Intersos
IOM
UNHCR
UNICEF
UNODC
UN Women
WFP
WHO

II. Agenda:	Summary of discussions:
1.Introduction	<p>UNHCR: CP and GBV Sub-Working Groups (SWG) will be launched after Easter. Discussions are ongoing with IOM, UNODC, etc. regarding the launch of the Anti-Trafficking Task Force (ATTF); updates on progress will be shared in the coming week. Instead of establishing a specific WG on Accountability and Inclusion, the RPWG will instead maintain AAP as a standing agenda item of RPWG meetings.</p>
2.SOTERIA Project Presentation	<p>INTERPOL: SOTERIA is a new project which aims to prevent sexual offenders from entering the aid sector and causing harm to beneficiaries. Its implementation started in Moldova, upon request from the authorities, in Feb 2022, but now its geographical scope includes all countries neighbouring Ukraine. SOTERIA team has 60 members of different backgrounds (communication, CB, criminal intelligence officers and analysts, etc.), covering different aspects of SEA. Core project component is the setting up of a database of SEA offenders, which can be used for candidates' references cross-checking prior to recruitment by an aid organisation. The project enhances the prevention side and the use of different INTERPOL notices. The Green Notice can be used by countries to notify other countries that a sex offender is freed from prison and may pose a threat to public safety. The Blue Notice concerns not just convicted criminals but all persons posing a threat to public safety. INTERPOL is going to enhance the use of Blue Notices and train local authorities, helping them fill the gaps and putting in place standard procedures for PSEA/safeguarding. The training platform is ready to be used and it is at the disposal of RPWG members. In Moldova, INTERPOL delivered training to authorities on identification of human traffickers, victims' interviewing, creation of PSEA standards and reporting mechanisms. For more info, contact: soteria@info.int .</p>
3.PSEA	<p>UNHCR: RBE Snr Protection Officer and IA Coordination FP provided a presentation on PSEA in the Ukraine Refugee Response.</p> <div style="text-align: right;">  <small>Overview%20PSE 0in%20Ukraine%</small> </div>
4.GBV	UNHCR:

	<p>Looking to establish a multi-purpose 1800 call centre, operational across the region, not specialised for a particular type of assistance but an all-rounder.</p> <p>Conducted focus group discussions with UKR refugees in several countries, and GBV has come out as one of the most serious and frequent protection risks. High-risk areas reported were private accommodation, reception, and transportation.</p> <p>In Moldova, 126 frontline responders have been trained on GBV; 8,000 refugees have been reached through an awareness campaign with contextualized Stay Safe messages put in NFI kits. Fourteen safety audits have been conducted and risk reduction measures have been put in place in key hotspots – such as in Palanca – with: site planning, sanitation, hiring a security company, etc.</p> <p>In Poland and Hungary, mapping of referral pathways and service capacities is underway. Poland is particularly challenging in terms of national GBV services (esp. PPE and safe abortion, given the legal framework).</p> <p>At the regional level, establishing a GBV SWG. Those who have an operational GBV response at country/regional level, are encouraged to reach out to Caroline Dulin Brass at dulin@unhcr.org or Geraldine Salducci Petruccelli at salducci@unhcr.org to express interest in joining this SWG.</p> <p>UNICEF: Intensively sending push messages to Ukrainian refugees in the region, through social media which promote national hotlines, being strengthened by UNICEF. Cooperating with Child Helpline International as well, who have a network of providers locally (tackling protection, care and referral). These are multi-purpose hotlines and are connected to statutory services. Suggest keeping a rational number of coordination structures at regional level.</p> <p>UNHCR: Thus far no reported overlaps/duplication amongst different regional structures, and the national structures were established in consultation with concerned governments.</p>
<p>5.Anti-Trafficking</p>	<p>INTERPOL: Able to help protection partners liaise and cooperate with government authorities. In Moldova, INTERPOL already solved two potential human trafficking cases (involving children), in liaison with Turkey.</p> <p>IOM: Working on a consolidated system for reporting and case management. Shared Counter-Trafficking in Emergencies Information Management Guidelines, Strategies and tools for addressing trafficking in humanitarian settings and Online training modules, including on counter trafficking in humanitarian settings. IOM counter-trafficking centre in Kyiv is operational and staffed and there are beds available for victims of GBV. Creating a directory of services available, in addition to national hotlines, in concerned countries, and will share in the form of a table once finalised. Expanding interventions, particularly on training, awareness-raising and support to reception.</p> <p>UNICEF: Received request for training on child protection from Border Police and social workers in Slovakia. Receiving anecdotal evidence of trafficking. Once the police introduced screening procedures for aid volunteers, many abandoned the idea to become aid workers. A few arrests have taken place; one trafficker was identified in a Blue Dot. Suggest that agencies who are members of the Group agree on common lines on trafficking.</p> <p>UNHCR: Colleagues to reach out to Geraldine Salducci at salducci@unhcr.org , and cc Vera Dragovic at dragovic@unhcr.org , should they wish to join in the ATTF.</p>

	<p>UNODC: Virtual consultations with NGOs, in collaboration with La Strada International, to identify immediate needs and facilitate evidence collection and exchange on trafficking in persons in the context of the crisis, expected to take place at the end of April. A Law Enforcement workshop will take place after Easter in Vienna, involving anti-trafficking in persons police units from EUROPOL, Austria, Germany, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Slovakia and Romania to exchange views, discuss risks/threats of trafficking in persons and associated needs. UNODC is keen to actively participate in the ATTF. Habitat for Humanity International: Will be sponsoring the European Freedom Network training: “Equipping International Organizations to Respond to Human Trafficking: Ukraine Refugee Crises”, which will take place online on April 14th. There will also be a training session in Poland and one in Romania. More information to follow soon.</p>
<p>6.CP</p>	<p>UNHCR: Invitation to the first CP SWG meeting to go out soon. Continued concerns regarding identification of UASC reported from several countries, including Hungary and Romania. UNHCR / UNICEF working on a joint agenda for protection of children. CP colleagues are reporting against country-based strategies to address CP-specific concerns; in Poland, partnering with Save the Children. UNICEF: Signing an MoU today with the Ministry of Social Policy in Ukraine to monitor UASC situation and the situation of children in social care and accompanying the Ministry on a mission to Poland next week, to jointly ensure the best interest of UASC from Ukraine. UNICEF is helping the Ministry identify where the children are (they do not seem to be in national childcare systems, since their evacuation from Ukraine had been organised by NGOs, private philanthropists, etc. and many had travelled without identification), through cross-border CP cooperation. Those children also need their right of return to be guaranteed. UNICEF is confident that it will increasingly be bringing the children into national childcare systems. There is emerging information on 91,000 children returned into care in Ukraine. In Poland, 90,000 Polish children are in care of the state, and when the Ukrainian UASC are added to this number the strain on the national structures becomes obvious and requires cross-border cooperation. The EC is looking at instituting a Children Solidarity Platform, and UNICEF is engaging with DG Home on making this happen.</p>
<p>7.AAP</p>	<p>UNHCR: Observing significant increase in numbers of older persons, persons with disabilities and persons in need of PSS arriving (particularly in Hungary and Moldova). In response, established presence in different locations across the region, to provide information and counselling. Working with UNICEF to speed up and scale up the Blue Dot rollout across the region. HELP page for Poland has become one of the most visited HELP pages worldwide – with more than 1,2 million hits since the war started. Moving ahead with setting up the regional (multipurpose) call centre, as well as the Digital Blue Dot – online/virtual mirror of the physical Blue Dots - in close collaboration with UNICEF. Guidance on vetting and registration of volunteers and volunteer organisations is under development, along with a training package for volunteers working in the refugee response.</p>

	<p>Concerned RPWG members will organise a dedicated, separate discussion on feedback and satisfaction mechanisms. Those willing to participate in this discussion should reach out to Caroline Dulin Brass at dulin@unhcr.org or Carla Daher at cdaher@unicef.org.</p> <p>UNICEF: Discussed with UNHCR joint work in first-line countries on feedback mechanisms, considering the better approach - whether individual agencies' hotlines or strengthening of national hotlines. If other agencies are doing similar things, let UNICEF/UNHCR know.</p> <p>Discussed a non-compulsory survey to be distributed to arrivals to Blue Dots, concerning satisfaction with services and information provided.</p>
8.AOB	<p>UN Women: Regional Gender TF, chaired by UN Women and co-chaired by CARE International, has been established. The first meeting was held on 6 April and over 30 members (UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs) participated in the meeting. The rapid gender analyses carried out in both Moldova and Poland were presented during the meeting. Engagement to include regional women CSO networks as part of the RGTF is also underway. Emerging areas of focus were support to programming and technical coherence and support to gender immersion in the response, areas of work in alignment with the RPWG as well as the relevant sub-working groups mentioned above.</p> <p>The Regional Gender TF meets every Wednesday as of 3 pm CET for 1.5 hours. Feel free to reach out to Ekram Elhuni at Ekram.elhuni@unwomen.org if you would like to join in.</p> <p>WHO: Mainstreaming protection through WHO emergency programming. Recruiting additional HR capacities to respond.</p> <p>Would be happy to examine areas where WHO can complement the risk assessments, and happy to be a member of the RPWG.</p>

III. Action Points

1. Debrief on the Gender TF meetings becomes standing agenda item of RPWG meetings.
2. Gender Task Force to follow-up with UNHCR on a dedicated webpage on the Global Data Portal.
3. UNHCR to circulate Guidance on vetting and registration of volunteers once available.

The Next RPWG Meeting will take place on Friday 22 April 2022, 3:00-4:00 PM.