



Protection WG

Meeting Details	
Date	03 August 2022. Next meeting will be held on 24 August 2022
Time	10AM to 11:30AM
Chair	Andrew Painter, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR
Reporting	Andrew Painter, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR
Email	painter@unhcr.org
Agenda	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Welcome & Review of Agenda2. Updates<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Blue Dots• Anti-trafficking• Roma Task Force3. Presentations<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GBV Safety Audit Recommendations• Regional Intention Survey4. Discussion<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PWG agendas• PWG workplan5. AOB	
Information collection and relevant links	
Moldova operational data portal: https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784	
Participants	



Refugees Helpline	NRC	CDA
OHCHR	DRC	CRS
UNFPA	Caritas	Operation Orphan
UNDP	ECHO	Helvetas
UNICEF	REACH	SDC
UNHCR	HelpAge International	CERI
IOM	Medical Corps	Clear Global
WHO	WeWorld	Keystone
IsraAID	IRC Moldova	ADRA
People in Need	Humanity and Inclusion	Concordia
IRC Balkans	INTERSOS	Palladium
ICRC	Internews	CWS
Mercy Corps		Doreas

Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
Welcome & Review of Agenda	The PWG chair welcomed the participants, thanked them for their presence and encouraged participants to attend in person for future meetings, if they feel comfortable doing so. He presented the agenda of the meeting and asked the participants if there are any suggestions to the agenda.	
Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blue Dots • Anti-trafficking • Roma Task Force 	a) Blue Dots The UNHCR focal point on Blue Dots updated PWG members on the last developments in the two planned Blue Dots. At the Moldova for Peace community center in Chisnau, a Child Safe Space will be available, in addition to PSS and legal counselling by CDA. The Blue Dot location will officially open soon. The second Blue Dot location will be at the Temporary Accommodation Centre (TAC) in Chisnau. CCR will also be launching the Blue Dot soon. Library without Borders will provide books for refugees at the Blue Dot.	Activity: To monitor the agencies' activities for better coordination Deadline: Until next Protection WG meeting



During discussion, the UNFPA representative noted the importance of SoPs for better coordination between Blue Dots and Orange Spaces. The UNICEF representative recommended that a meeting be arranged to discuss between UNFPA, UNICEF and UNHCR on these locations.

The UNHCR chair agreed on the need for coordination among the agencies on these services and recommended that, in the process, the agencies review the extent to which the services are being utilized by refugees in the different locations.

b) Anti-trafficking

UNHCR's antitrafficking specialist updated colleagues on the creation and functioning of the Trafficking in Person Task Force in a hybrid format, with the next meeting on 12 July 2022. She also invited participants to report any suspected cases of trafficking:

- Call the Centre for combatting human trafficking (CCTP) hotline (24/7): tel: 022 254 998/ 0674 07 614 and an e-mail where information (passport scans, number plates, etc.) can be sent: cctp_ini@igp.gov.md
- Call the La Strada hotline : 0800 77777 for psychological and legal support

The IOM co-chair of the Trafficking in Person Task Force invited interested persons to provide inputs on the Task Force's activities through the end of the year in the Workplan and Training Coordination Plan. The goal is better coordination of antitrafficking efforts and avoiding overlaps.

Persons interested persons in joining the Trafficking in Person Task Force should send an email to Olga Bitca at: bitca@unhcr.org

c) AAP update

The UNHCR co-chair of the AAP Task Force updated the PWG on TF activities. She explained that the main concern of the AAP is how information is shared with persons of concern and how feed-back is received. As part of the workplan, the TF compiled and shared with the sector leads of the different Inter-Agency working groups a compilation of main information requests from refugees. The objective is for the different WGs to be informed of questions from the refugee



	<p>community and for humanitarian actors to respond in one voice, sharing with refugees accurate, reliable, and updated information. The list is intended to be a living and regularly updated document.</p> <p>The AAP TF shared with the Protection WG those questions that related to protection issues. The UNFPA representative noted that many of the community questions received by AAP Task Force are legal in nature. She suggested that the PWG provide the necessary information on these issues to PWG members to have available as part of their outreach.</p> <p>The Clear Global representative noted the importance of the format of materials provided to the refugee community and the need to ensure appropriate translation. As an example, Ukrainian, Russian and Romanian languages are not sufficient in reaching out to the Roma community, as there are a variety of languages spoken in Ukraine. Clear Global offered its assistance in meeting these translation needs.</p> <p>d) Roma Task Force update</p> <p>The UNHCR co-chair of the Roma Task Force reported on different types of protection cases involving Roma refugees in the context of reception and accommodation and tensions with host communities. The Roma TF has made various interventions to address these cases. The co-chair emphasized the importance of taking steps to address the education needs of Roma children.</p>	
<p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GBV Safety Audit Recommendations • Regional Intention Survey 	<p>GBV Safety Audit Recommendations</p> <p>The co-chairs of the GBV SWG, UNFPA and UNHCR, provided a presentation to the PWG on the SWG’s GBV Safety Audit. The aim of the GBV Safety Audit is to identify and address GBV risks and possible actions to address them across sectors and areas of work. The Guidelines for Integrating Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action and How to Support survivors of gender-based violence when a GBV actor is not available in your area were an important source for this exercise and can be found at www.gbvguidilenes.org</p>	<p>Activity: To monitor the agencies’ activities for better coordination</p> <p>Deadline: Until next Protection WG meeting</p>



The methodology of the Safety Audit included interviews with over participants, with separate discussions with Roma and LGBTIQ+ communities. Key findings of the GBV safety audit were:

- For those renting: risk of eviction and harassment/abuse by landlords (mainly males), sense of isolation and insecurity, limited networks with the local communities, sense of lack of safety in many urban public spaces. Women and girls avoid going out during the night.
- For those in host families: support vs risks (sexual abuse and harassment). Difficulties to monitor, with limited outreach to date given initial focus of humanitarian actors on RACs and border points.
- For those in RACs: positive feedback from refugees. Main risks: infrastructure, regulating access to the RACs by non-residents (including visitors and media), cohabiting situation. Women reported a general feeling of insecurity and lack of privacy. Some RACs shared the accommodation space with private companies/projects. Private refugee shelters are also operating but are not registered with the government and are not regulated. Lack of privacy in sleeping arrangements, and concerns with security in bathrooms and bathing facilities.
- Risk of trafficking, mainly sexual exploitation, was reported in all settings. Higher risk: single women, adolescent girls and unaccompanied children, lack of safe employment opportunities. Mainly single mothers and Roma women.
- GBV risks in transportation: Private transportation at the border during the onset of the crisis and current transportation directly from Ukraine. Public transportation in Moldova. Sexual violence by taxi drivers and harassment on buses. Discrimination towards Roma women.

Recommendations:

- Enhance funding for existing local women's organizations providing GBV services.
- Coordinate GBV risk reduction and response actions.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for the mainstreaming of GBV risk reduction and response across all refugee response programs. • Facilitate the participation of the refugee and host community in GBV prevention and response activities. • Support training efforts on age, gender and diversity inclusion and accountability for affected communities for all responders. • Engage GBV actors in protection monitoring activities to share GBV risks and response needs identified. • Ensure potential refugee host community tensions are effectively monitored. • Enhance awareness on anti-trafficking in coordination with the accommodation sector. • Assess housing and property protection needs for refugees residing in the host community/private accommodation. • Improve access to information on protection services and official complaint mechanisms in private/host accommodation. <p>For any question on the presentation, contact the GBV SWG co-chairs, Fatima Alwaihaidy, UNFPA at alwahaidy@unfpa.org and Valentina Duque, UNHCR at duquev@unhcr.org</p> <p>The Keystone representative asked about the inclusion of person with disabilities in the study. The co-chairs noted that disability issues were mainstreamed in the report, even if there were no specific chapters on women PWDs.</p> <p>The Keystone representation mentioned a hotline as an entry point for PwD GBV issues and the need to coordinate with the La Strada hotline.</p>	
<p>Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PWG agendas • PWG workplan 	<p>a) PWG agenda</p> <p>The UNHCR chair raised the issue of PWG agendas and how to organize them. He suggested that PWG meetings open with an update on arrivals and the situation at border crossing points, as well as at RACs. Standing items would include updates and presentations of the SWGs and Task Forces on a rotating basis. Discussion points would follow.</p>	<p>Activity: To identify priority areas of work for 2023</p> <p>To address issues for winterization</p>



	<p>The Keystone representative agreed on the standing items as a previous good practice so as know the activity of the partners for better coordination.</p> <p>b) PWG workplan</p> <p>The UNHCR chair noted that the PWG did not have a workplan and proposed that a focused workplan for the remaining four months of the year be considered. Issues to address could include, for example, localization of services, contingency planning, winterization and temporary protection. Another focus could be to review the assessments conducted to date and data collected, in coordination with IM colleagues, to identify priority areas of work for 2023.</p> <p>The UNFPA representative noted the importance of linking winterization and integration with protection concerns.</p> <p>The UNHCR chair encouraged PWG members to participate in the winterization discussions and to provide requested inputs on winterization plans with the IA colleagues.</p>	<p>Deadline: Until next Protection WG meeting</p>
<p>AOB</p>	<p>Chair of the PWG proposed to have a meeting on 24 August, closed the meeting, thanked participants for their presence and for their ideas on next steps.</p> <p>For any ideas and inputs for the Protection Working Group, please contact: Andrew Painter, Senior Protection Officer, E-mail: painter@unhcr.org</p>	