



PROTECTION WORKING GROUP/DISABILITY TASKFORCE (DTF)

Meeting Details	
Date	23.09.2022 - Next meeting on 07.10.2022
Time	11.00-12.00 am
Chair	Ludmila Malcoci, Executive Director, Keystone Moldova
Reporting	Ludmila Ciocan, DTF Secretariat Coordinator, Keystone Moldova
Email	lmalcoci@khs.org ; lciocan@khs.org ;
Agenda	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opening remarks. Short updates on the Disability Taskforce activity• Moldova: Needs Assessment of Older Refugees – HelpAge International• New projects/ initiatives to support the refugees with disabilities (AOPD, CDPD, IOM)• AOB	
Information collection and relevant links	
Moldova operational data portal: https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784	
Moldova: Needs Assessment of Older Refugees https://reliefweb.int/report/moldova/moldova-needs-assessment-older-ukrainian-refugees-14-september-2022	
Participants	
Ludmila Ciocan, Keystone Moldova	Anatol Donu, CCR
Martina Gastaldello, OHCHR	Cristina Baroni, INTERSOS
Corneliu Tarus, IOM	Mariana Martinez, HI
Galina Climov, AOPD	Lindsay Bingaman, HelpAge International
Adela Goncear, CDPD	Justine Gosling, WHO
Tatiana Ghidirmschi, LOW VISION	Tatiana Lungu, USAID
Aliona Ciobanu, CASMED	Natalia Soboleva, ICRC
Daniele Pedretti, HelpAge International	



Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p>Opening remarks / short updates DTF</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The last DTF hybrid meeting was dedicated to information sharing on key challenges in supporting persons with disabilities. Five NGOs presented 19 projects/initiatives, part of them already finished and part new, to be implemented in the next months. • Two Ukrainian refugees employed by local NGOs also participated in the DTF meeting and shared their experience. From time to time is very important to have refugees as participants to the DTF meetings to understand how to better include them in refugee response initiatives. • Seven NGOs presented to the DTF their uncovered needs in supporting refugees with disabilities, that vary from medicines' procurement, highly specialized medical services, provision of medical and assistive devices, installation of heating systems etc. This list of various needs was provided to UNCHR who is analyzing them to identify financial responses. • It was decided to collect data from NGOs that work with refugees with disabilities on a monthly basis to not overwhelm service providers that not have time to work on data. The data are available for past intervention: disaggregated by age, sex, severity of disability. The goal of the DTF is to include data collected by other partners too for a better identification of persons with disability. • The DTF initiated a mapping exercise to have in one place the projects / initiatives implemented by different NGOs country-wise to better synchronize partners' initiatives and avoid overlapping and also for referral. 	<p>UNCHR to analyze the needs shared with them by DTF and identify possible resources to address them.</p> <p>A questionnaire will be shared with partners to finalize the mapping exercise initiated by DTF</p>
<p>Moldova: needs assessment of Older Refugees - Help Age</p>	<p>From 1 to 16 August Help Age conducted a needs assessment on older refugees. The assessment served as basis to identify beneficiaries to provide home care and other services.</p> <p><u>Methodology:</u> 485 interviews face to face with refugees older people (77% women and 23% men), in 30 out of 32 districts of Moldova (73% urban areas and 27% rural areas). Refugees were interviewed in RACs and in communities.</p> <p><u>Key findings:</u></p> <p>Shelter:</p> <p>-Of the refugees in the communities, 69% live with relatives and friends; 27% in rented houses/apartments and 4% in others.</p> <p>-27% pay rent. 20% are unable to pay for rent.</p>	



	<p>-about 3,030 refugees are in 68 accredited RACs, of which about 10% are over 65</p> <p>Health:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-82% older people have at least one condition; 51% have more than one-the top 6 health conditions refugees declared they were suffering are: hypertension; joint aches and pains; heart problems; gastro-intestinal; diabetes; respiratory problems.-according to REACH assessment, 74% of 60 years old have been able to access healthcare when required. 44% of older people do not have a Covid-19 vaccine. According to REACH assessment, only 2% of refugees outside the RAC had received psychosocial support. <p>Access to medicine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-finding an active pharmacy in the local area is not a big issue (although in rural area is a bit more difficult)-only 32% of those interviewed with a health conditions reported they can fully access their medication (key reasons are costs; non availability of medications; difficulty accessing local market) <p>Income and assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-46% of older people reported receiving an income, however the value is limited due to inflation, cost rises and the unprecedented low exchange rate. Older people reported spending their money on: food; medicine; transport; hygiene items; utility bills; clothes. <p>Food security:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-89% of refugees reported that they have 3 or more meals per day and 86% reported that they did not have to reduce the quantity of food they eat <p>Protection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-60% of older persons in the communities reported having to adopt negative coping strategies. This was higher than those in the RACs (21%). Using savings; not paying rent and borrowing money were the main strategies used.-4% reported that they do not have IDs. Without IDs you do not have access to a series of benefits, especially related to UNHCR assistance.-60% have been separated from family members. <p>Key recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Cash assistance is the preferred modality for refugees➤ The transfer value should reflect current inflation rate	
--	--	--



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Greater support should be provided to refugees living in remote rural communities and struggle to register for cash assistance➤ Guidance and cash support should be provided to help older refugees accessing their health care needs➤ Information on how to access humanitarian services should be provided through a variety of chapters <p>The findings have validated the findings from hotline services and mobile teams provided by many NGOs. Many older people do not have cards, they received their pension in Ukraine at the postal offices and as a result, they lost access to their pension. UNHCR has established mobile teams to assist persons with disabilities and elderly to complete the online forms for cash benefits for refugees.</p>	
New projects/ initiatives to support the refugees with disabilities (AOPD, CDPD, IOM)	<p>The Alliance of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities (AOPD) initiated a new project to be implemented in the next 6 months that aims at improving the participation of refugees with disabilities in the humanitarian response programs. The initiative is focused on the following activities: capacity building of CSOs to support refugees with disabilities, advocacy campaign for disability mainstreaming into refugee response, monitoring the resources allocated for supporting refugees with disabilities, improving the communication platform for refugees with disabilities.</p> <p>The Center for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CDPD) will implement in the next 4 month a new project to increase the protection for refugees with disabilities. The main initiative include activities such as: needs assessment of refugees with disabilities, hiring 4 case managers to work on individualized assistance plans, providing legal assistance, establishment of a Help line, offering additional cash benefits for persons with severe disabilities and improving access to information related to the support offered by CDPD to refugees with disabilities.</p> <p>IOM organized a participatory workshop with NGOs that work with persons with disabilities and DPOs to develop a new project concept as a response to the ELRHA opportunity "Improving Learning and Research for Humanitarian Assistance". It targets two groups: persons with disabilities and older persons and will include a quantitative and a</p>	



	qualitative research to find innovative solutions in the context of the humanitarian crisis due to the war in Ukraine.	
AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Government is working on a new draft law on temporary protection and it is necessary to provide inputs from the DTF members when public consultations of the document will be launched.• The government is working with UN Agencies to provide winterization cash response.• At the Accommodation and Transport WG it was announced that a RAC for families with children with autism was accredited. It is managed by the organization SOS Autism. It is very complicated for parents who have children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders to live in other RACs because they need a special program and an adapted environment. Many of them previously travelled from the North or the South of the country to receive the services in Chisinau. SOS Autism is specialized in therapy with children and young adults with Autistic Spectrum Disorders. Actually, there are about 25 refugee families placed in the center. In August, their project for refugee support finished and these families were not able to pay for the rent or to move in RACs. This situation probably determined the accreditation of the center as a RAC.	