



## Protection Working Group

Meeting Details	
<b>Date</b>	05.10.2022 - Next meeting on 19.10.2022
<b>Time</b>	10.00 am
<b>Chair</b>	Andrew Painter, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR, Sector Coordinator; Carolina Cazaciuc, Coordinator on Refugee Rights, Ombudsperson Office, Co-Chair
<b>Reporting</b>	Olga Bitca, Protection Associate, UNHCR
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:painter@unhcr.org">painter@unhcr.org</a> , <a href="mailto:carolina.cazaciuc@ombudsman.md">carolina.cazaciuc@ombudsman.md</a>
Agenda	
<p>Welcome &amp; Review of Agenda (10:00-10:10)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Situational update (10:10-10:30) (CDA/INTERSOS)</li><li>• Updates (10:30-10:45)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Psychological support hotline (Amici dei Bambini)</li><li>• Small Grants Launch (ACTED)</li><li>• 2023 RRP Planning</li><li>• PWG/PAG (UNHCR)</li></ul></li><li>• Presentations (10:45-11:10)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Roma Refugees (Roma Women Platform ROMNI)</li></ul></li><li>• Discussion (11:10-11:30)</li><li>• AOB</li></ul>	



<b>Participants</b>			
<i>Tatiana Rotaru, Joint Management Crisis Center</i>	<i>Maura Reap, WHO</i>	<i>Lize Dense, Medecins du Monde</i>	<i>Natalia Sorbala, Dorcas</i>
<i>Louis Mazel, US Embassy</i>	<i>Svetlana Jioara, CDA/LCA</i>	<i>Panagiota Sifaka, IsraAID</i>	<i>Iana Rotaru, CERI</i>
<i>Tatiana Lungu USAID</i>	<i>Victoria Tipordei, CDA/LCA</i>	<i>Anatol Donu, Caritas Czech Republic,</i>	<i>Aida Araklya, HI</i>
<i>OSCE mission Moldova</i>	<i>Louise Allen, Plan International</i>	<i>Maria Nazarenko, People in Need</i>	<i>Marianna Prysiazhniuk, Internews</i>
<i>Ersilia Apreda, IOM</i>	<i>Stavros Zotos, Plan International</i>	<i>Adel Sasvari, Oxfam Diakonie, DKH</i>	<i>Greta Heller, ADRA</i>
<i>Tanita Cotarcea, IOM</i>	<i>Stefania Martello, ACTED</i>	<i>Myriem El Khatib, ICRC</i>	<i>Dan Mandef, PEC</i>
<i>Martina Castaldello, OHCHR,</i>	<i>Maja Mandrapa Terzic, DRP</i>	<i>Aleksandra Andjelic, IRC</i>	<i>Simona Reznic, Terre des Hommes</i>
<i>Dawood Khan, UNICEF</i>	<i>Andrei Dobre, NRC</i>	<i>Tatiana Pusca, CRS</i>	<i>Andrei Lutenco, Moldova for Peace</i>
<i>Traian Turcanu, UNICEF</i>	<i>Tatiana Bogaci, NRC</i>	<i>Greta Heller, ADRA</i>	<i>Ludmila Malcoci, Keystone</i>
<i>Olesea Cazacu, UNDP</i>	<i>Natalia Athanasiadou, NRC</i>	<i>Nelly Sembiring, World Vision</i>	<i>Nicolae Ciocan, Keystone</i>
<i>Natalia Griu, UNFPA</i>	<i>Dania Trefi, INTERSOS</i>	<i>Anca Soldubanu, Clear Global</i>	<i>Wolfgang Moser, Jugend Eine Welt</i>
<i>Abandokht Sarkarati, UNFPA</i>	<i>Cristina Baroni, INTERSOS</i>	<i>Nicolas Karadjian, EPER</i>	<i>Vitalie Popov, Greenline</i>
<i>Nosheen Nosheen, UNFPA</i>	<i>Marin Onica, CCR</i>	<i>Anatol Donu, CCR</i>	<i>Stefan Popov, Amici dei Bambini</i>
<i>Violeta Terguta, UFPA</i>	<i>Hana Badando, MSF Moldova</i>	<i>Lindsay Bingaman, Helpage</i>	<i>Women Rights Center</i>
<i>Saidkasim Sakhopov, UNFPA</i>			<i>Elena Sirbu, Coalition Roma Voice</i>
			<i>Diana Grosu, LEX XXI</i>

**Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points**

<b>Agenda</b>	<b>Discussion</b>	<b>Agreements/ Actions</b>
<p><b>Agenda Point 1</b> <b>Welcome &amp; Review of Agenda</b> Andrew Painter, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR, Sector Coordinator;</p>	<p>The <b>PWG chair</b> welcomed participants, thanked them for their presence, and encouraged them to attend in person for future meetings, in order to have more engaging discussions. He presented the agenda of the meeting and asked the participants if there were any suggestions.</p> <p>If any modifications necessary to minutes of the PWG, to contact: <a href="mailto:bitca@unhcr.org">bitca@unhcr.org</a></p>	<p>Agenda revised and agreed</p>



<p>Carolina Cazaciuc, Coordinator on Refugees Rights, Ombudsperson Office, Co-Chair. <a href="mailto:painter@unhcr.org">painter@unhcr.org</a>, <a href="mailto:carolina.cazaciuc@ombudsman.md">carolina.cazaciuc@ombudsman.md</a></p>		
<p><b>Agenda Point 2 Situational Update</b> Svetlana Jioara, Program Director, CDA/LCA <a href="mailto:svetlana.jioara@cda.md">svetlana.jioara@cda.md</a></p> <p>Dania Trefi, Protection Manager, INTERSOS <a href="mailto:protection.manager.moldova@intersos.org">protection.manager.moldova@intersos.org</a></p>	<p>The <b>CDA Program Director</b>, Svetlana Jioara, provided updates from the field. The situation overall did not change drastically in the last two weeks. At <b>Palanca BCP</b>, CDA continues border monitoring and has documented several asylum claims of those who crossed illegally on the green border, usually in the middle of the night or early in the morning. Since the 24<sup>th</sup> of February, 1,147 asylum claims have been made on the green border, while 4,555 claims have been made at Palanca BCP.</p> <p>The flow of vehicles and individuals crossing on foot is in line with the average. A small increase in movements has been observed in both directions, mainly on entry to Moldova. Ukrainian Border Police (BP) continue to be present on the transit road up until the barrier. They check the cars rigorously, especially for men. In almost all cases, men are returned to Ukraine. CDA continues to intervene with Moldavian border police to inform them of these returns. However, they go to the Ukrainian side for some period and then come back without any further intervention. This is happening on a daily basis.</p> <p>Buses continue to cross the border daily. 3 evacuation routes are being carried out by Be An Angel, who are bringing groups from Odessa and Mykolaiv (around 300 persons). These groups are brought to the border with Moldova, at which time they receive support from other organizations and are transported further to Chisinau or other countries.</p>	



Food and water continue to be provided by Amici dei Bambini every day until 15h and by ACR periodically, which is causing shortages of food and water on some days. With the change of cold weather, there is a need to provide more hot drinks and food.

Most arrivals to Moldova through Palanca BCP are from Odessa, and CDA has seen an increase of those going to Transnistria, primarily due to cost of living and support networks. CDA has also observed several cases of Russian citizens holding Ukrainian resident permits who have been denied entry to the territory of Moldova, as they cannot provide a valid reason for travelling. It does not appear that these individuals sought asylum in Moldova.

10 UASC were registered at Palanca BCP over the past two weeks, all of which were accompanied by authorized guardians (family members). In every case, the guardianship authority intervened and issued the necessary papers and they entered Moldova without any further intervention. It was also reported that some teenagers (16+) attempted to enter Moldova without guardianship papers but decided to go back to Ukraine once informed that they would need them to enter.

**At Otaci BCP**, the situation is the same as 2 weeks ago. Many people are travelling to Moldova to fill up with fuel, to withdraw cash, and to buy food, before returning to Ukraine. A case of asylum seeker who swam the Dnister river and claimed asylum in Moldova was mentioned.

CDA also documented cases of TCNs who were living in Ukraine for several years. When their documents expired, they were forced to leave Ukraine. In several cases, TCNs were able to contact their respective embassies/consulates and received the necessary documents for onward travel, while some claimed asylum.

On the border with Romania, the situation remains the same, with no asylum seekers registered. There are pendular movements of Ukrainians returning from EU countries



where they have TP, to go visit Ukraine and then return; most declare that they are employed and that their children are enrolled in school.

At the airport BCP, border police continue to deny access to those who cannot justify their stay in Moldova, mostly relating to TCN. Some have applied for asylum through the help of CDA and UNHCR.

Finally, in RACs, the situation remains the same. Those residing have remained there for several months. Most individuals who come to Moldova prefer to rent an apartment or live in the host community.

The **INTERSOS South Protection representative**, Dania Trefi, presented the situational updates from the field.

In Palanca BCP, arrivals have increase around 20%, most of them from Mykolaiv and Odessa regions. There has also been an increase in Russian TCN who's Ukrainian residence permits have expired, as well as those who feel discriminated against living in Ukraine.

There is an issue with finding accommodations for these individuals, as RACs are not used to house Russian arrivals or other TCNs. Furthermore, these individuals do not have access to humanitarian services and are in a vulnerable situation living in Moldova.

A large number of Roma refugees have arrived in the past 2 weeks, some of whom are Russian Roma.

The INTERSOS representative encouraged participants to start thinking on how to deal with the question of Russian arrivals and to consider what the plan is, considering there is no assistance within the humanitarian response for them and some are not capable of supporting themselves.



	<p>Finally, most arrivals intend to go to Chisinau, Romania, or Germany (preferable destinations).</p> <p><b>Questions:</b></p> <p>Co-chair of the Disability TF asked a question regarding trends of persons with disabilities at the BCPs. CDA representative responded that there is no increase that they can see, but they can only speak about visible disabilities and other mental disabilities.</p> <p>Elena Sirbu, co-chair of the Roma TF, asked for confirmation regarding the increase in Roma crossing the border, and whether they have necessary documentation? If not, are they informed that they need this document to show when they crossed the border, otherwise they cannot receive humanitarian assistance or be accommodated in Moldova? CDA representative answered that all cases were documented with international passports; those who do not have documents claim asylum at the border, those with internal document should request for the paper stating when they crossed the border and are informed by CDA on this issue. In case they don't take this paper at the moment of crossing, they can still approach the border police office and receive confirmation.</p>	
<p><b>Agenda Point 3</b> <b>Psychological support hotline, Amici dei Bambini</b></p> <p>Stefan Popov, Coordinator Hotline Amici dei Bambini</p>	<p>Stefan Popov, coordinator and psychotherapist, presented the launch of the psychological support hotline of the NGO Amici dei Bambini.</p> <p>The hotline is provided in support from OXFAM and is available from 09:00-19:00 Monday to Friday (0800 10 804), with targeted beneficiaries being refugee women and children. The hotline provides services for psychological first aid, management of affective disorders and psychosocial support. Some of the most frequently observed disorders include anxiety, panic attacks, uncertainty, fears of the future and loss of loved ones, financial issues, depression due to loss of housing, lack of hope and feelings of despair,</p>	<p>To coordinate the hotline with other existent hotlines, especially with the AAP WG</p>



	<p>feelings of guilt for family members left behind in Ukraine, feelings of shame about being a burden, sleep and food disorders, somatic and neurovegetative disorders, and concern over lack of available services.</p> <p>The promotional videoclip of the hotline can be found <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p>Andrew Painter suggested to coordinate the hotline with other existent hotlines, especially with the AAP WG.</p>	
<p><b>Agenda Point 4 Small Grants Launch, ACTED</b></p> <p>Ruxanda Camerzan</p>	<p>A representative from ACTED, Ruxanda Camerzan, announced the opening of a call for proposals for local Moldovan civil society organisations under the name ‘Community-based protection to ensure a protective environment for both refugee and host communities in Moldova’. There are 3 sub-grants projects available, targeted the rayons of Ocnita, Anenii Noi, Hîncești, Ialoveni, Dondușeni, and Edinet.</p> <p>The projects must cover one or more of the following areas: social cohesion, child protection, prevention and response to gender-based violence, activities targeting the specific needs of people with specific vulnerabilities. The deadline is 24<sup>th</sup> of October 2022.</p> <p><b>Link to the full description:</b> <a href="https://civic.md/anunturi/granturi/65961-acted-lanseaza-programul-de-granturi-pentru-organizatiile-societatii-civile-din-republica-moldova.html">https://civic.md/anunturi/granturi/65961-acted-lanseaza-programul-de-granturi-pentru-organizatiile-societatii-civile-din-republica-moldova.html</a> <a href="https://civic.md/anunturi/granturi/65957-call-for-proposal-launched-by-acted.html">https://civic.md/anunturi/granturi/65957-call-for-proposal-launched-by-acted.html</a></p> <p><b>Contact details:</b> <a href="mailto:protection.moldova@acted.org">protection.moldova@acted.org</a>, Ecaterina Lutisina +373 684 12 542 Irina Popovici + 373 683 57 646</p>	<p>To send the proposals of the projects until the 24<sup>th</sup> of October</p>



<p><b>Agenda Point 5 2023 RRP Planning PWG/PAG</b></p> <p>Andrew Painter, Senior Protection Officer <a href="mailto:painter@unhcr.org">painter@unhcr.org</a></p>	<p>The <b>UNHCR</b> representative, Andrew Painter, provided an update regarding the 2023 Refugee Response Planning (RRP). Currently, UNHCR is working on the 2023 RRP, which is a donor mobilization tool which outline the strategy and corresponding needs of every sector, including protection. It is an intense process that will be done over the coming months. The first step is to identify what are the priorities, activities, and indicators for the protection sector. The protection sector is especially large, as it includes both SWG of Child Protection and GBV, as well as other Task Forces (TF) like anti-trafficking, Roma and disabilities.</p> <p>UNHCR is currently planning to have an all-day workshop/consultation on Tuesday October 11<sup>th</sup> to bring together all protection partners to discuss through these issues, including separate discussion amongst the SWG. Currently, there is discussion to merge the protection sector with the education sector.</p> <p>During the consultation, a presentation will be made by the UNHCR inter-agency team to go over planning figures and expectations for the next year. After this initial exercise, all protection partners who are planning projects for 2023 will have an indication of what the sector priorities are will be able to tailor their submissions accordingly. Submissions will then be made, at which time sector leads will identify gaps and duplications. It is quite an intense process under a short timeline. A save the date for the consultation will be sent out later today after the meeting.</p> <p>Regarding the Protection Advisory Group (PAG), thanks to those who made official requests to become a member and who submitted their written answers to the two questions. UNHCR is currently in the process of identifying a donor to sit on the committee, and a survey will be sent out shortly to vote on candidates to join the selection committee.</p>	<p>RRP Save the Date to be sent out, as well as the PAG survey for selection committee.</p>
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<p><b>Agenda Point 6</b> Roma Refugees</p> <p>Elena Sirbu, cochair Roma Task Force, President Roma Women Platform ROMNI <a href="mailto:vocearomilor@gmail.com">vocearomilor@gmail.com</a></p>	<p>The Roma Task Force co-chair, Elena Sirbu, presented an update about <i>Roma Refugees' Group</i> in Moldova. She stated that at the beginning of the emergency, Moldavian society (from volunteers to mass media) had a less than positive reception and attitude towards Roma refugees, and in some cases expressed hate speech. Despite progress made, such cases are still occurring. She provided a summary of recommendations provided by a consortium of INGO and NGO of the Roma Task Force:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- It's important to inform and report internally and externally regarding Roma issues without reinforcing prejudices and stereotypes;</li><li>- Refugees are human beings experiencing extreme distress and empathy must be shown to avoid the negative connotations about the subject;</li><li>- Roma refugees are not a homogeneous group, and they may react different to certain requests. For example, when referencing Roma voices or stories, ask authorization for the image of the children and provide more positive human stories on a regular basis, especially with more protagonists who disclose their Roma identity.</li></ul> <p>The Roma Task Force created a mapping of Roma refugees between July and October. It is estimated that there are between 3000 to 4000 Roma refugees in Moldova, located on both banks of the river Dniester, with many stakeholders agreeing on the estimation. Localized in person over 2100 Roma refugees accommodated in RACs, host communities and privately accommodated, both banks of the river Dniester with the involvement of several entities and mediators. Overall transited the country over 45 000 Roma refugees, according to certain stakeholders.</p> <p>Policies and good practices on Roma Refugees reception, accommodation and relocation were also presented, including the importance of involving Roma mediators and other stakeholders in search for and mediation of potential solutions.</p> <p>Vulnerabilities of Roma refugees in Moldova were also addressed, including</p>	<p>Despite the improvement in the reception and accommodation of the Roma refugee group, needs are very high, gaps still present.</p>
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	<p>psychosocial distress due to displacement, lack of schooling, separation from family, lack of accessible information and no informative materials in Romani language, total or partial lack of documentation, low school enrolment for children, high illiteracy rates, and risks of violence and exploitation.</p> <p>In April, an inter-agency Task Force was established to address the needs of the Roma refugee community. The TF is co-chaired by UNHCR and the Coalition of Roma Voices, with the active participation of the Roma Community Mediator appointed by the GoM's Joint Management Crisis Center. The TF has over 40 members, including government agencies, local Roma NGOs, and humanitarian actors. The TF has undertaken field visits to meet with local communities, implemented activities to improve accommodations and services in RACs where Roma live, and worked with government ministries to move forward with integration and inclusion measures.</p> <p>Finally, Ms. Sirbu outlined a series of good practices for the Roma Task Force, the progress that the task force has made thus far in the areas of education for Roma children, and what challenges still remain in addressing these issues.</p> <p>For a comprehensive overview, please consult the presentation slides provided.</p>	
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<b>Information collection and relevant links</b>
<p>Moldova operational data portal: <a href="https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784">https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784</a></p> <p>Small grants launch of ACTED: <a href="https://civic.md/anunturi/granturi/65961-acted-lanseaza-programul-de-granturi-pentru-organizatiile-societatii-civile-din-republica-moldova.html">https://civic.md/anunturi/granturi/65961-acted-lanseaza-programul-de-granturi-pentru-organizatiile-societatii-civile-din-republica-moldova.html</a> <a href="https://civic.md/anunturi/granturi/65957-call-for-proposal-launched-by-acted.html">https://civic.md/anunturi/granturi/65957-call-for-proposal-launched-by-acted.html</a></p> <p>Amici dei Bambini promotional video of the psychological support hotline: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ztBve0bOU94">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ztBve0bOU94</a></p>

*If necessary, feel free to add extra rows in the matrix above.*