



Protection Working Group

Meeting Details	
Date	<i>30 November 2022 - Next meeting on 14 December 2022</i>
Time	<i>10.00 am</i>
Chair	<i>Andrew Painter, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR, Sector Coordinator; Carolina Cazaciuc, Coordinator on Refugee Rights, Ombudsperson Office, Co-Chair</i>
Reporting	<i>Sean Sager, Protection Officer, UNHCR</i>
Email	painter@unhcr.org , carolina.cazaciuc@ombudsman.md , sager@unhcr.org
Agenda	
<p>Welcome & Review of Agenda (10:00-10:05)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Situational update (10:05-10:20) (INTERSOS and CDA)• Updates (10:20-10:30)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2023 RRP• Temporary Protection (TP)• Presentations (10:30-11:15)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HelpAge Presentation: Protection Risks & Needs of Older Refugees in Moldova• CCR Presentation: Overview of Community Services Initiative (CSI)• Announcements• AOB	



Participants			
<i>Sean Sager, UNHCR</i>	<i>Lindsay Bingaman, HelpAge</i>	<i>Carolina Scifos, UNHCR</i>	<i>Joseph Duncan, ACTED</i>
<i>Carolina Cazaciuc, Ombudsman Office</i>	<i>Yui Hirade, AAR</i>	<i>Casey O'Neill, Church World Service</i>	<i>Liz Devine, MdM</i>
<i>Rei Doi, Peace Winds</i>	<i>Adrianna Ysern Zarranz, UNHCR</i>	<i>Chris Lomas</i>	<i>Maja Mandrapa Terzic, DRC</i>
<i>Daniele Pedretti, HelpAge</i>	<i>Aida Arakelyan, HI</i>	<i>Dania, INTERSOS</i>	<i>Ludmila Malcoci</i>
<i>Doina Craciun, CCR</i>	<i>Aleksandra Andjelic, IRC</i>	<i>Diana Panov, CDA</i>	<i>Marian Onica, Caritas Czech Republic</i>
<i>Tatiana Bucearschi, CCR</i>	<i>Anca Soldubanu, CLEAR Global</i>	<i>Emilija Davidovic, IRC</i>	<i>Martina Bogdeva, INTERSOS</i>
<i>Djavid Paknehad, CCR</i>	<i>Andi Szenasi, REACH</i>	<i>Giulia Cappellazzi, PIN</i>	<i>Martina Gastaldello, OHCHR</i>
<i>Hanna Ursol, UNHCR</i>	<i>Petru Lupu, UNHCR</i>	<i>Ina Rusu, ADRA</i>	<i>Maura Reap, WHO</i>
<i>Oleg Hincu, D4I/Palladium</i>	<i>Tamara Ropot, UNHCR</i>	<i>Nataliya Yakubovska, NRC</i>	<i>Simona Ruznic, TdH NL</i>
<i>Svetlana Bebic (ICRC)</i>		<i>Sophie Dupont, OXFAM</i>	<i>Wolfgang Moser, JEW</i>
		<i>Teodora Zafiu</i>	<i>Dina Zamfirov, UNHCR</i>



Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p>Agenda Point 1</p> <p>Welcome & Review of Agenda</p> <p><i>Carolina Cazaciuc, Coordinator on Refugees Rights, Ombudsperson Office, Co-Chair.</i></p> <p>carolina.cazaciuc@ombudsmn.md</p> <p><i>Sean Sager, Protection Officer, UNHCR</i></p> <p>sager@unhcr.org</p>	<p>The PWG co-chair 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, and no objections were raised.</p> <p>If any modifications are necessary to minutes of the PWG, please contact: sager@unhcr.org</p>	<p>Agenda presented and agreed</p>
<p>Agenda Point 2</p> <p>Situational Updates</p> <p><i>Dania Trefi, Protection Manager, INTERSOS</i></p> <p>protection.manager.moldova@intersos.org</p>	<p>INTERSOS provided a situational update from Palanca bus station. In the past 2 weeks, the number of arrivals has remained low, with most arrivals coming from Odesa and Mariupol. Arrivals reported constant blackouts, with electricity only available for fixed times during the day (2-3 hours). Those arriving from Odessa reported that they were forced to leave because of problematic life conditions, including no power or heating, limited access to water, and internet cuts. There</p>	<p>INTERSOS to follow-up on sharing daily reports with PWG members.</p>



Diana Panov
CDA/LCA
diana.panov@cda.md

is also a problem with public transportation, as trams run rarely and only during the day.

The main vulnerable groups identified are individuals with physical disabilities and single women with children, including those from the Roma community. INTERSOS is also seeing a more equal balance of arrivals of men and women, which is a new trend. The number of men and women arriving through Palanca BCP is almost equal. The majority of arrivals are travelling onwards to Romania, with few numbers staying in Causeni or Chisinau.

INTEROS also received reports from several individuals that those coming from Kherson are being asked to pay money in order to travel to Moldova safely, although no details were provided on the companies/organizations reportedly being involved in this. INTERSOS will follow-up and gather more information.

One PWG participant raised a question regarding electricity cuts at Palanca BCP and whether this has affected movements in and out of Ukraine. Some reports stated that due to these cuts, individuals could not enter Moldova on the Ukrainian side, as the database is not functioning during these cuts. INTERSOS stated that they are not aware of this and have not heard these reports, however, they do not have access to the border. A representative from CDA confirmed that these cuts to electricity are causing delays and long queues due to the inability to process individuals, and that this is occurring every other day at Palanca BCP.



	<p>A request from IOM was made to INTERSOS regarding the sharing of daily border information with specific data from crossings. These reports are currently only shared with UNHCR as an implementing partner.</p> <p>In addition to updates on electricity, the CDA representative reported that there have been very few asylum requests made in the past two weeks at Palanca BCP. Some cases of separated children were identified; in all cases, the guardianship authority intervened and issued the necessary paperwork. Regarding Third-Country Nationals, they continue to be check rigorously, sometimes for up to 5 hours, especially those coming from Belarus and Russia, regardless of valid residence permits.</p>	
<p>Agenda Point 3</p> <p>Update on Protection Temporary Protection</p> <p><i>Sabina Sandu, Assistant Protection Officer, UNHCR</i></p> <p>sandu@unhcr.org</p>	<p>UNHCR Assistant Protection Officer provided an update on Temporary Protection (TP). As everyone is aware, the current state of emergency is set to expire on 7 December 2022. At this time, it is unclear as to whether it will be extended one more time.</p> <p>A second version of the TP draft was recently circulated amongst the different ministries and agencies working on the humanitarian response for a new round of comments. The second draft is not significantly different than the first; the main ideas are kept with only some technical specificities introduced. One such</p>	<p>UNHCR to inform PWG members of additional TP updates between now and the next PWG on 14 December 2022.</p>



	<p>change is regarding the notion of family, with dependents extended to include persons with disabilities and medical conditions into the eligibility criteria.</p> <p>A second change is regarding documentation, and that persons who register for TP will be fingerprinted with the state and that data will be introduced into the informational system.</p> <p>Regarding minors and school enrollment, it is now explicitly stated that Ukrainian children will be enrolled under the same conditions as those children in the territory of Moldova.</p> <p>Finally, the draft TP included a new obligation to inform state authorities of incidents of human rights violations, an activity that the Ombudsman's office is monitoring and reporting on.</p> <p>The current draft decision is being finalized and next week it may be presented to the government for adoption.</p>	
<p>Agenda Point 4</p> <p>Update on RRP</p> <p><i>Sean Sager, Protection Officer, UNHCR</i></p> <p>sager@unhcr.org</p> <p><i>Yurii Arnautov, Information Management Officer, UNHCR</i></p> <p>arnautov@unhcr.org</p>	<p>UNHCR co-chair provided an update on the 2023 RRP Planning. A huge thanks to all PWG partners who participated and coordinated their submissions to the RRP last week. Protection received over 500 submissions, not including GBV and CP submissions. It was a lengthy process to go through each submission looking for duplications, overlap, confirmation of activities and target beneficiaries, etc. Overall, the process went smoothly due to the great coordination between UNHCR and organizations.</p> <p>UNHCR Information Management Officer then provided updates on the next steps in the process. Currently, UNHCR is finalizing the edits and changes which were submitted from sector leads and this will be completed by the end of this week. Sector leads have also submitted their respective narratives, which have</p>	<p>UNHCR to present on 2023 RRP budget at the next PWG on 14 December 2022</p>



	<p>been compiled for the first draft. This draft will now be sent to the government of Moldova and crisis cell for further revisions, after which time it will be shared with the UNHCR regional office. Next week there is a plan to have the budget finalized. For the protection sector, the target population will be 200,000, which is the projected number of refugees anticipated in Moldova in 2023. With the planned implementation of TP, the dynamics of this might change. Sectors should expect to receive a preliminary presentation by next week. By the next PWG presentation, a more detailed presentation will be ready. Regarding the actual RRP document, this should be published in January.</p>	
<p>Agenda Point 5</p> <p>CCR Presentation on Community Services Initiatives (CSI)</p> <p><i>Djavid Paknehad, CCR</i></p> <p>ccr@mdl.net</p>	<p>UNHCR implementing partners CCR gave a presentation on their Community Services Initiatives (CSI), which consists of 10 different projects aimed at both refugee and host community populations in Moldova. The first half of the presentation provided an overview of the 5 already completed projects, and the second half focused on the additional 5 projects currently being implemented</p> <p>The full presentation was shared with PWG members for further reference.</p>	<p>GBV SWG to share details of 16 Days Against GBV campaign/activities with PWG members.</p>
<p>Agenda Point 6</p> <p>HelpAge Presentation on Protection Risks & Needs of Older Refugees in Moldova</p>	<p>HelpAge gave a presentation on Protection Risks & Needs of Older Refugees in Moldova. The presenters provided an overview of the organization, including their mission and vision, as well as their approach to protection of the elderly in Moldova. They also provided useful information on how to communicate with older persons in the context of humanitarian response and provided resources</p>	<p>Presentation to be disseminated to PWG members.</p>



<p><i>Lindsay Bingaman, Regional MHPSS & Protection Advisor, HelpAge</i></p> <p>lindsay.bingaman@helpage.org</p> <p><i>Daniele Pedretti, Humanitarian Programme Manager, HelpAge</i></p> <p>daniele.pedretti@helpage.org</p>	<p>for PWG members to access. Finally, an overview was given on a recent needs assessment conducted by the organization in November.</p> <p>The full presentation was shared with PWG members for further reference.</p>	
<p>Agenda Point 6 Announcements</p> <p><i>Carolina Cazaciuc, Ombudsman's Office</i></p> <p>carolina.cazaciuc@ombudsmn.md</p> <p><i>Aida Arakalyan, HI</i></p>	<p>PWG representative from HI made an announcement an upcoming training on the topic of "Inclusive Data Collection in Humanitarian Action" that will be held on 8 December 2022. Details of the training, including how to register, will be shared with PWG members.</p> <p>PWG co-chair announced the upcoming Human Rights Forum being organized by the Ombudsman's Office. Details of the training, including how to register, will be circulated to PWG members.</p>	



Regional Refugee Response
for the Ukraine Situation

a.arakalyan@hi.org		
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Information collection and relevant links
Moldova operational data portal: https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784 UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe: The Implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive - Six Months On (October 2022) https://reliefweb.int/report/poland/unhcr-regional-bureau-europe-implementation-temporary-protection-directive-six-months-october-2022

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