



## PROTECTION WORKING GROUP/DISABILITY TASKFORCE (DTF)

Meeting Details		
<b>Date</b>	09.09.2022 - Next meeting on 23.09.2022	
<b>Time</b>	11.00-12.00 am	
<b>Chair</b>	Ludmila Malcoci, Executive Director, Keystone Moldova	
<b>Reporting</b>	Ludmila Ciocan, DTF Secretariat Coordinator, Keystone Moldova	
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:lmalcoci@khs.org">lmalcoci@khs.org</a> ; <a href="mailto:lciocan@khs.org">lciocan@khs.org</a> ;	
Agenda		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Opening remarks. Short updates: Disability Taskforce activity</li> <li>• Current and new projects/initiatives to support the refugees with disabilities: Keystone Moldova, Uniunea pentru Echitate și Sănătate, FCPC- Fiecare Contribuie pentru Schimbare, OSORC (Transnistrian Region), INTERSOS - Moldova Mission</li> <li>• Refugee testimonials: inclusive practices and unmet needs</li> <li>• Discussions on the next interventions of the Disability Taskforce</li> </ul>		
Information collection and relevant links		
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>		
Participants		
<b>Offline participation</b>	Adriana Ysern Zarranz, UNHCR	Cristina Mardari, OHCHR
Ludmila Malcoci, Keystone Moldova	Mariana Martinez, HI	Tatiana Lungu, USAID
Ludmila Ciocan, Keystone Moldova	Ala Ianenco, FCPS	Cristina Baroni, INTERSOS
Corina Gribincea, Keystone Moldova	Elena Gidzenko, refugee FCPS	Veaceslav Luca, IM Swedish Development Partner
Aliona Babina, Uniunea pentru Echitate si Sanatate	Mariana Olari, AOPD	Eloi Rouillon, BSF (Library without borders)
Lilia Miaschikov, refugee, Uniunea pentru Echitate si Sanatate	Ludmila Borodina, OSORC	Tatiana Ghidirimschi, LOW VISION
Martina Gastaldello, OHCHR	Iulia Andonii, OSORC	Maria Vremis, D4I/Palladium
Tatiana Cernomorit, OHCHR	<b>Online participation</b>	Viorica Toarta, D4I/Palladium
Tamara Ropot, UNHCR	Aurelia Isac, State	Justine Gosling, WHO
	Chancellery/Cancelaria de Stat	Yui Hirade
	Oona Gemsh, UN RCO Moldova	



## Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<b>Short updates / Disability Taskforce activity</b>	<p>During August 2022, about <b>200 refugees with disability were supported</b> by three NGOs: Keystone Moldova, CASMED and SOS Autism. The reduced number of NGO may be in part motivated by a reduction of available financial resources after the first months of the refugee crisis. The main services and goods delivered were as follows: medical examination, medicines, medical equipment, assistive devices, hygiene packages, nutrition packages, clothes, transportation, psychological counselling, legal counselling, early rehabilitation services for children with Autism.</p> <p><b>Challenges:</b> The challenges faced by NGOs in assisting refugees with disabilities remain the same as reported in previous period. Additional challenges identified are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Lack of financial support for ophthalmological services and assistive devices;</li><li>• Financially inaccessible dental services for children and older persons;</li><li>• Lack of support for children with autism in the majority of host communities;</li><li>• Difficulty in integrating children with disabilities in Moldovan schools and limited accessibility for them;</li><li>• Disability degree confirmation/assessment and access to disability cash especially for children with disabilities upon reaching the age of 18;</li></ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. With regards to the challenge of financial support for persons with a disability, the needs were flagged to the Protection Working Group. A meeting was planned for the period 12 – 16 September to discuss UNHCR possible support to local NGOs.</li><li>2. With regards to the integration of children with disabilities in Moldovan schools, donors support, in particular UNICEF, will be crucial in looking for a solution.</li></ol>
<b>Current and new projects/initiatives to support the refugees with disabilities</b>	<p><b>1. Keystone Moldova</b> is implementing six projects, with funds from East Europe Foundation, Catholic Relief Services, Swiss Development Cooperation, Fondation de France, CARE-SERA, IOM. Initiatives implemented include Hotline and Mobile Team support to refugees with disabilities, support to host families, support to the Disability Taskforce Secretariat. A new initiative 'Open Arms, Open Hearts. Emergency response to Ukraine crisis' aims to support refugees and host families through 3 territorial partners (from Balti, Orhei and Causeni) and targets more than 1000 refugees beneficiaries of support .</p>	



**2. Uniunea pentru Echitate și Sănătate** is specialized in assisting persons with HIV. To respond to the refugee crisis the organization created two Mobile Teams (psychologists, social workers and doctors) that assisted Ukrainian refugees, including persons from various vulnerable groups living in Balti municipality. Assistance provided included: express test for HIV and hepatitis; infection and respiratory viruses; psychological assistance. Those in need were redirected to social assistance, to help them in searching for employment. They also received humanitarian aid, in particular: nutrition packages, clothes for kids. They also had a neurologist on board, to prescribe treatment to refugees with psychological and neurological conditions.

**3. FCPC- Fiecare Contribuie pentru Schimbare** is implementing 7 initiatives to support refugees, including persons with disabilities. Since March 2022, they have been implementing seven projects to supporting refugees with: distribution of assets and equipment to families; vouchers for clothing; hygiene items; equipment for online schooling; legal assistance; psychological counselling; education and leisure activities; activities for social cohesion; protection against SGBV including through information campaigns. Two of these projects are ongoing until the end of the year. They have been collaborating with the City Councils.

**Remaining needs:**

- Tackling the needs of the people with reduced mobility;
- Ensure adequate accessibility standards in the RACs;
- Improving information and learning platforms for people with disabilities, for instance by creating an adaptive classroom for children with disabilities;
- Training local authorities and Town Halls representatives on refugees' rights and particularly on referral for persons with disabilities
- Clarifying the mechanisms for the labor inclusion for refugees

**4. OSORC (Transnistrian Region)** has been supporting refugees since the first day of the war. They have reached 1,400 families with at least one member with a disability. They have provided housing; nutrition packages; leisure activities, referral to another organization which supports people with oncology diseases. They had to reorient their



	<p>activities from refugees towards hosting families, who have been under a lot of pressure, but have remained very empathic towards refugees. Currently, a challenge is that one of the centers where many Ukrainian refugees are living is planned to close, and another shelter need to be found for these families.</p> <p><b>5. INTERSOS</b> has been implementing two protection projects and two health projects in support of refugees. All projects have a disability focus. One project is focused on Roma refugees. Challenges include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ barriers for persons with disabilities in informal accommodation centres (there is only one center in Chisinau for persons with disabilities – Temporary Placement Center for Older Persons with Disabilities and Older Persons, Chisinau);</li><li>▪ provision of secondary medical support (they only do primary health care, and refer to hospitals people in need of secondary health care. Hospitals can assume responsibility for emergency, but resources for surgery and other treatments are limited, so reference to hospital doesn't mean access to healthcare. They offer primary healthcare, which includes consultations about chronic conditions and basic drug stock.) The main challenges are:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Difficulties in finding devices (orthopedic) and physical and occupational therapy</li><li>▪ Lack of Nursing Care Homes</li><li>▪ Barriers for persons with disabilities in Informal Accommodation Centers</li><li>▪ Need of an assessment of persons with disabilities situation in Moldova and of available services</li><li>▪ Few services for mental disability and difficult to refer</li><li>▪ Difficult access for Roma communities to Health Care systems.</li></ul></li></ul>	
<p><b>Refugee testimonials: inclusive practices and unmet needs</b></p>	<p><u>First testimony</u> A female doctor recounts she flew from Ukraine and she was given an office by an NGO. She receives refugees who consult her on various diseases. She has been noticed a lot of children with autism and difficulty to provide medical care.</p> <p><u>Second testimony</u></p>	



	<p>A woman who flew from Ukraine reports the difficulties she had in receiving humanitarian aid and the challenges in obtaining good care from a family doctor for her elderly mother in the district she is hosted.</p> <p>Uncovered needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• medicines (they received some vouchers but they cannot be used to buy medicines at the pharmacy);</li><li>• children with special conditions who used to have special assistance in Ukraine but now are enrolled in regular schools and need specialized support;</li></ul>	
<p><b>Discussions on the next interventions of the Disability Taskforce</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Checklist to mainstream disability in various sectors is in the process of finalisation.</li><li>• UNHCR - EU Air Transfers program works with ICRC and identified persons with serious diseases and receive many referrals from local and international NGOs. They would like to know which specific disabilities organizations are encountering to provide more support to this specific group of refugees.</li></ul>	