



PROTECTION WORKING GROUP/DISABILITY TASKFORCE (DTF)

Meeting Details	
Date	29.07.2022 - Next meeting on 12.08.2022
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	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Welcome & Presentation of Agenda2. Updates and discussions on the activities/support provided to refugees with disabilities3. Preliminary results of the assessment and feedback on the DTF activity and future intervention and work4. Presentation of the draft DTF ToR	
Information collection and relevant links	
Moldova operational data portal: https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784	
Participants	
UNHCR	ACTED
OHCHR	Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation
UNDP	Ministry of Labour and Social Protection
UNICEF	Alliance of Organizations of Persons with Disabilities in
IOM	Moldova (AOPD)
WHO	Keystone Moldova
Humanity for Inclusion	CDPD – Center for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
HelpAge International	CASMED
IM Swedish Development Partner	LOW Vision



Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
Welcome & Presentation of Agenda	Ludmila Malcoci, TDF Chair welcomed the participants and informed the group about the upcoming visit in the Republic of Moldova of the US Special Advisor on International Disability Rights, planned for August. Her agenda will include visits to RACs and community based care services for persons with disabilities. The TDF Chair presented the agenda of the meeting and asked the participants if there are any suggestions to the agenda.	
Updates and discussions on the activities/support provided to refugees with disabilities	<p>The TDF Chair informed about the assistance provided by civil society organizations to refugees with disabilities and about the main challenges in providing support.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• During the last two weeks, 5 NGOs reported on their assistance to refugees with disabilities: about 300 persons with disabilities received targeted support. The majority of NGOs' beneficiaries of services and goods (about 70%) are accommodated in host families.• In the last period, the number of refugees from Ukraine did not increase, but the number of assisted refugees with disabilities increased due to the collaboration between NGOs and LPAs in identifying the needs of persons with disabilities.• Keystone Moldova Mobile Team responsible for providing direct support to refugees with disabilities communicated that it is extending the interventions in more rayons (if 3 months ago it worked only in Chisinau, now it has beneficiaries from 23 rayons and should employ additional staff members).• UNHCR supported the procurement of about 200 will-chairs and the Moldovan Society of Persons with Disabilities helped with the storage of will-chairs. Mr. Margineanu, the president the Moldovan Society of Persons with Disabilities, informed previously Keystone Moldova team that the batch of humanitarian aid (assistive devices mainly) that was blocked in Constanta seaport, Romania finally arrived in Chisinau the last week and now the assistive devices are distributed to the refugees that need them. Assistive devices were procured also by OHCHR.• The Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) will develop an Inter-Agency Winterization Strategy to strengthen humanitarian efforts in the winter period. The objective is to map existing capacities and gaps per sector and avoid duplication of activities and	Activity: Deadline: Until next DTF meeting



	<p>resources. The Winterization Strategy is essential for the effective coordination of specifically tailored activities for the winter period. For this reason every agency/organization that have already projects in process or intend to implement projects related to the assistance of refugees during the winter period are asked to fill in a form https://enketo.unhcr.org/x/ggj221qm by 6 August.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is a need of support by UN Agencies and donors to allocate resources for hiring additional specialized staff to provide services for refugees with disabilities, including staff responsible for case management, counselling, rehabilitation etc.• Catalina Birsanu, UNHCR, asked if district/municipal Social Assistance Departments could provide case management and the DTF Chair explained that the social assistants hired by Social Assistance Departments have already a heavy workload and they need support in dealing with refugees' cases. It would be necessary to hire at list one person in each department responsible for refugees with disabilities and elderly.• Short term projects (initiatives) financed by donor organizations represent a challenge in hiring specialized staff to provide support to refugees. It is difficult for NGOs to identify professionals willing to sign a contract for 3-6 months only. There are monthly-based projects: an NGO was in a situation to sign a memorandum of understanding every month. There are longer projects (for one year), but the period of preparation lasted 6 month until the contract was signed and now the NGO should implement it in only 6 months. The DTF Chair suggested that donor organizations should be prepared for longer projects taking into account that the refugees will remain in Moldova for a longer period, even if the conflict will end soon.• Chloe Mandelbaum, ACTED, asked where/to whom the cases of refugees moving from RACs should be referred in case they need adapted transportation. The DTF Chair mentioned that there are only 3 means of adapted transportation available now: Motivatie NGO has 2 units and FCPC from Criuleni – one unit.• Daniele Pedretti, HelpAge International, informed about an initiative to provide assistive devices in several RACs and will present the locations to the DFD to not duplicate the efforts in distributing these means to elderly and persons with disabilities.• Galina Climov, AOPD, informed that the European Disability Forum would support 4 initiatives of the CSOs in Moldova to respond to the needs of refugees with disabilities.	<p>Activity: To discuss in the Inter-Agency meeting the need for reviewing the implementation terms of different projects targeting refugees with disabilities and the allocation of funds for additional staff to provide services</p> <p>Deadline: In the next meeting</p> <p>Activity: HelpAge International to share the locations of RACs that received/will receive</p>
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	<p>AOPD applied and will start a project in September. She also mentioned that APSCF (Alliance of Active NGOs in the field of Child and Family Social Protection) has a program for NGOs working with refugees. A part of these sub-grants could be used to support children with disabilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vitalie Mester, CDPD, presented the new initiative of CDPD to assess the accessibility of all RACs by December 2022 with financial support from the European Disability Forum. His organization will provide also support to host families of refugees with disabilities for reasonable accommodation of houses/apartments.• Vitalie Mester, CDPD, raised concerns related to the expensive tests (200-300 EURO) that owners of pets should do for their animals to enter the EU and the long period of time (about 30 days) needed for receiving the results from Prague (these tests are not done in the Republic of Moldova). This requirement affects negatively the refugees with disabilities as they use the dogs not as pets but as support animals. He asked the DTF to raise this issue in the meetings with donors as resources are needed to cover these expenses in case of refugees with disabilities who have support dogs.• Ms. Kurkowska, Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation, shared a useful link for animal owners to facilitate their entrance in EU countries https://www.ltk-bw.de/files/content/01_Startseite/Ukraine-resources-1.pdf	<p>assistive devices for elderly Deadline: Until next DTF meeting</p>
<p>Preliminary results of the assessment and feedback on the DTF activity and future intervention and work</p>	<p>The DTF Secretariat conducted a rapid assessment through an online Questionnaire (https://docs.google.com/forms/d/17X4zSGVpqijyuquG-i4VSu6CNoz5zkTQWc9kG4uiGyE/edit) addressed to the DTF members to receive feedback on the DTF activity and especially on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• positive aspects related to the DTF activity that should be maintained/ continued;• aspects related to the DTF activity that should be improved;• expectations of the DTF members related to the activity of the group;• priorities the DTF should have until the end of 2022; <p>Only 7 DTF members filled out the online Questionnaire.</p> <p>The <u>positive aspects</u> mentioned by respondents are as follows: regular DTF meetings; information sharing; joint efforts to solve the problems of refugees with disabilities; updates on</p>	<p>Activity: To ask repeatedly the DTF members to fill out the online Questionnaire “Assessment and feedback on the DTF activity and future intervention and work”</p> <p>Deadline: Until next DTF meeting</p>



the activities of other groups/agencies/NGOs; joint advocacy initiatives; linkage between DTF members; visibility of interventions; capitalization of resources.

Aspects that should be improved as follows:

- DTF should have a more open vision and objectives to cover other vulnerabilities (should be an Inclusion Taskforce instead of a DTF);
- DTF should act as a technical platform and provide humanitarian actors with specific guidelines/tools on inclusion of age, gender and diversity;
- DTF should have a specific capacity building plan and offer trainings on different subjects;
- Better coordination (in terms of who is doing what) is needed;
- Periodic reports on the activity of the DTF;
- Promote best practices and success stories related to the assistance of refugees with disabilities;
- Attract more members (NGOs and DPOs) from the Transnistrian region.

The respondents have the following expectations from the DTF:

- To pay more attention to older persons with disabilities and organize capacity building activities for humanitarian actors;
- Coordination between organizations involved in activities oriented to help the refugees with disabilities;
- Improved mechanism for referring refugees to specialized medical examination/rehabilitation services;
- More space for leadership, not only coordination;
- To plead for modification of the legal and policy framework to support measures for persons with disabilities during crises and emergencies;
- Fundraising, more resources offered to NGOs for the implementation of measures to support refugees with disabilities;

According to the respondents, the DTF priorities should be:

- A joint work plan;
- Trainings;
- Conduct situation analysis on inclusion of Disability, Age and Gender in refugee response;



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Streamline communication and information exchange between DTF members; • Monitor the implementation of the recommendations provided by the DTF related to different intervention plans; • Facilitate the implementation of programs aimed at supporting refugees with disabilities and ensure better inclusion of refugees with disabilities (better access to health services, education, employment etc.); • Develop a referral mechanism for refugees with ophthalmological needs/visual disabilities; • Involve more NGOs and DPOs representatives from the Transnistrian Region in the DTF; • Facilitate the implementation of the UN CRPD in Transnistrian Region; • Contribute to the development of the legal framework on the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the Transnistrian Region. <p>The DTF Chair mentioned that the DTF was created on a voluntary basis without appropriate financial resource for supporting a secretariat, organizing capacity-building activities, conducting research etc. She highlighted that some issues mentioned by the respondents to the Questionnaire should be addressed by other WGs (e.g. Health WG); the DTF should instead advocate determining the health sector to approach and solve the problems identified by the DTF. She remarked also that 7 answers to the Questionnaire are not enough to draw a conclusion, these results were useful for developing the DTF ToR, but more DTF members (at least 30) should provide inputs for designing the DTF future activity and priorities.</p>	
<p>Draft DTF ToR</p>	<p>The DTF ToR were drafted by the DTF Secretariat based on the inputs of the DTF members that responded to the Questionnaire “Assessment and feedback on the DTF activity and future intervention and work”. Ludmila Ciocan presented the structure of the draft ToR, including the main DTF areas of responsibility as well as the core principle of DTF interventions.</p>	<p>Activity: To send the draft ToR to the DTF members for reviews/ comments/suggestions Deadline: until next DTF meeting</p>