



## TASK FORCE ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Meeting Details	
Date	13/04/2023
Time	15:00-16:40
Co-chairs	Permanent Secretariat, IOM, UNHCR
Reporting	UNHCR
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Agenda			
Meeting Agenda	Time	Topics for discussion	Facilitator
	15:00 – 15:05	Welcome remarks	Permanent Secretariat UNHCR IOM
	15:05 – 15:30	Presentation of the Draft Concept for the development of the National Program for the prevention and combating of trafficking in human being for 2024 - 2028	Diana Doros, Permanent Secretariat
	15:30 – 15:50	Presentation of the results of the awareness raising campaigns on Trafficking in Human Beings in the Republic of Moldova  Q & A	La Strada
	15:50 – 16:20	Contingency planning	UNCHR

		IOM
16:20 – 16:40	Update on the recent development and activities on countering Trafficking in Persons and joint activities for 2023 (Training for the Protection sector, planned, assessments)	All participants
Information collection and relevant links		
Participants		
Diana Doros, Permanent Secretariat	Martina Bogdeva, UNHCR	Ersilia Apreda, IOM
Svetlana Albina, UN Women Moldova	Elena Botezatu, La Strada	David Ruslan, State Labour Inspectorate
Natalia Nicula, UNODC	Cristina Baroni, Intersos	Viorel Ciobanu, Prosecutor's Office
Elena Cristian, IOM	Hermann Meingast, Be an Angel	Vasile Harea, Centre for Combatting Trafficking in Persons (CCTP)
Olga Chisca, OSCE	Cristina Ceclu, People in Need Moldova	Evelina Miron, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP)
Jana Nagnitschenko, OSCE	Christopher Lomas, Hope 4	Stefan Burdila, General Inspectorate for Migration (GIM)
Flavius Onofrei, EUBAM	Oxsana Grau, Public Services Agency	Lilia Rusu, Ministry of Justice
Tatiana Parvu, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection	Alex Mocanu, ICMPD	Andrei Gaidau, Border Police General Inspectorate (BPGI)
Daniela Palii, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection	Nadejda Radu, Service for Assistance to Male Victims of Trafficking	



Adrian Pascal, CAP Sara Sivkova, UNHCR	Veronica Lupu, National Association of Women Lawyers	Victoria Botnaru, ANAS Hanna Ursol, UNHCR
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### Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<b>Welcome remarks</b>	<p><b>Ms Diana Doros, Permanent Secretariat</b>, welcomed everyone and thanked UNHCR and IOM for co-chairing this meeting.</p> <p><b>Ms Martina Bogdeva, UNHCR</b>, thanked all participants and introduced the agenda of the meeting.</p> <p><b>Ms Ersilia Apreda, IOM</b>, thanked all participants for taking part in the meeting.</p>	
Presentation of the Draft Concept for the Development of the National Program for the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Human Beings for 2024 - 2028	<p><b>Ms Diana Doros, Permanent Secretariat</b>, introduced the Draft Concept for the Development of the National Program on Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Human Beings for 2024 – 2028. The concept went through the first phase of discussions and amendments from civil society and international organisations, including recommendations from OSCE and UNODC. Ms Doros thanked for all the inputs obtained from partners and informed that the recommendations for the concept will be further discussed by the Ministerial Committee.</p> <p>The key problems to be addressed were such as the outdated institutional framework (lack of specialists, coordination of the anti-trafficking policies at national and local levels, limited labour inspections and expertise in carrying out the unannounced controls, absence of national rapporteur or another independent national mechanism to monitor anti-trafficking (AT) activities, lack of psychologists, specialised judges, fluctuation of specialists and professional burnout) and adjustment of the outdated regulatory framework.</p>	Permanent Secretariat will update the new version of the Draft Concept on the official website.

	<p>In line with 4Ps Strategy, the following recommendations were mentioned in the Draft Concept:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prevention (awareness raising, use of digital tools and media in the recruitment process, inclusion of youth)</li> <li>• Protection (improve victim’s access to health care and rehabilitation services)</li> <li>• Prosecution (global database access, broader definition of trafficking, exploitation of refugees, international protection forms)</li> <li>• Partnership (international, national and local actors’ increased involvement in line with other national strategies and action plans)</li> </ul> <p><b>Mr Viorel Ciobanu, Prosecutor’s Office</b>, suggested that existing studies to be reflected in the new plan (IOM study on indicators of trafficking in human beings). There could be created a dedicated sub-group division of work in the Prosecutor’s Office along with trained judges to address the trafficking cases. Mr. Ciobanu mentioned the need to update software for processing the qualitative data on trafficking. He also proposed to take into consideration the best practice of the Georgian legislation on trafficking (with a focus on victim’s safety, faster trials, easier collection of evidence and victims’ motivation to report cases).</p> <p>The Permanent Secretariat stated that the recent draft note is just an overview and was the first step towards the preparation of the actual program and thus it could not address all complex AT issues right away. The inputs would be taken into consideration in further planning, however, there were remaining challenges for implementation such as underfunding.</p> <p>Regarding the budget issue, IOM representative mentioned the importance of sharing the financial burden and support provided by other stakeholders.</p>	
<p>Presentation of the results of the awareness raising campaign on Trafficking in Human</p>	<p><b>Ms Elena Botezatu, La Strada</b>, made a presentation on the awareness raising campaign on Trafficking in Human Beings in the Republic of Moldova for 2022 – 2023. The awareness raising campaign was conducted and funded by IOM. It aimed to promote the La Strada hotline through using media and national TV and to warn Ukrainian refugees about the risk</p>	

<p>Beings in the Republic of Moldova</p>	<p>of trafficking. The videos produced within the campaign had been broadcasted both in UA and EN languages.</p> <p>The monitoring and evaluation activities of the campaign were based on the number of people viewing the campaign, and the number of calls and cases registered after the campaign was launched. The campaign showed the existing challenges for refugees (lack of financial means) and the most typical types of exploitation such as labour and sexual exploitation, which were used as a basis for video scenarios.</p> <p>The result of the campaign showed that there were around 14 738 visitors at the La Strada website (October 2022 – March 2023), about 600 calls on prevention and 27 calls related to presumed trafficking cases, out of which 6 calls were from Ukrainian refugees. The cases were referred to the Centre for Combating Trafficking in Persons (CCTP).</p> <p><b>IOM</b> representative asked how many calls were referred to law enforcement authorities, as well as the reason for the lack of reported cases of trafficked Ukrainians in Moldova, if it related to the good prevention response or lack of will to report the cases.</p> <p><b>La Strada</b> representative replied that many requests were submitted by relatives of people who were abroad, and it was needed to check if the doubts were reasonable. For those cases referred by other organizations, they were directly referred to CCTP. There is no other data available on the follow-up or ongoing investigations. At the moment, there were 6 legal proceedings involving Ukrainian citizen but overall, the number of reported cases was low due to various reasons (trauma, lack of information on rights).</p> <p><b>Prosecutor's Office</b> representative added that there were ongoing investigations, however, that the data could not be shared until the investigations finalised as victims couldn't be considered as such till the end of the investigation and without Prosecutor's Office identification process confirmed He also mentioned that traffickers were using new methods (hybrid methods, digital technology) and there were many cases of mixed offences. One referred case from La Strada related to girls from Moldova and Ukraine who were meant to be transferred to Uzbekistan. Other cases associated with trafficking in human beings were</p>	
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	<p>connected to online payment and misuse of online technologies and required cooperation with international agencies (Interpol) and private companies (Meta). One of the main challenges was victims' participation in legal proceeding and the risks for victims who often preferred to return to the same environment presenting additional risks to trafficking and/or abuse.</p>	
<p>Contingency planning</p>	<p><b>Ms Martina Bogdeva, UNHCR</b>, introduced the updated Sector Contingency Plan for 2023 concerning response in case of a large new influx of refugees in the first 10 days and then first three months developed by the Refugee Response Coordination Forum and the Government of Moldova. The aim was to identify the capabilities of partner organizations, address the existing gaps, share the ATTF priorities, and identify overlaps with other sectors.</p> <p>The participants were asked to provide inputs on lessons learnt on the emergency response interventions during the first phase of the crises in February/March 2022.</p> <p><b>IOM</b> representative introduced the example of points to consider into the new contingency planning as well as potential risks to TIP that can be prevented through ad hoc measures in coordination with other sectors. For example, during the first months many private taxis were offering services at the border which could cause potential security risks above all for those people who did not wish to wait for the transportation provided by humanitarian actors or/and governmental agencies. For IOM, the main objective and also result overall was maintaining specialized services operational while strengthening them via technical capacity building avoiding development of a parallel system.</p> <p><b>La Strada</b> representative agreed that the main obstacle was to coordinate all the efforts of initiatives on national and regional levels.</p> <p><b>Permanent Secretariat</b> representative responded that during the first phase of the war in Ukraine the authorities were able to react thanks to the aid from partners such as EU, UN agencies, OSCE, and Council of Europe, who had practice in response to the high refugee influx (coping mechanism, training, identification procedures). As one of the main</p>	<p>UNCHR will introduce more details on the Contingency Plan during next ATTF meetings at the end of May</p>

	<p>challenges, lack of finance, mental health and psychological support, legislation and law enforcement were underlined. Overall, the finance and communication were key issues and needed to be addressed accordingly.</p> <p><b>Prosecutor's Office</b> representative agreed with the argument about the lack of legislation and human resources during the initial phase of the refugee influx. Other complication was the non-compatibility of MD and UA legislation (minors crossing the border, men fleeing military service, documentation). He evaluated positively the international partners' engagement, cross-border cooperation and cooperation between law enforcement authorities and the government of the Republic of Moldova.</p> <p>UNHCR promoted the appointment of Focal Points for each agency that would contribute to the Sector Contingency Plan for 2023.</p>	
<p>Update on the recent development and activities on countering trafficking in persons and joint activities for 2023 (training for the Protection sector, planned assessments)</p>	<p><b>Ms Evelina Miron, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP)</b> provided statistics on unaccompanied/separated refugee children who arrived from Ukraine to the Republic of Moldova.</p> <p>For the period from 22.04.2022 to 27.12.2022, there were registered on the territory of the Republic of Moldova: 497 unaccompanied children, 1175 unaccompanied children without authorized caregiver, and 475 documents were issued for authorization to cross the border of the Republic of Moldova.</p> <p>As of 04.07.2023, for the period from 12.28.2022 to 04.07.2023, there were registered on the territory of the Republic of Moldova: 73 unaccompanied children, 161 unaccompanied children without authorized caregiver and 124 documents were issued for authorization to cross the border of the Republic of Moldova.</p> <p>For the period from 29.03.2023 to 07.04.2023, there were registered on the territory of the Republic of Moldova: 0 unaccompanied children, 15 unaccompanied children without authorized caregiver and 11 documents were issued for authorization to cross the border of the Republic of Moldova.</p>	<p>Statistics to be shared by MLSP</p>

	<p>The other provided data included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 121 refugee children with their parents were placed in refugee accommodation centres;</li><li>- custody was established for 6 children;</li><li>- 65 refugee children transited the Moldovan territory.</li></ul> <p>Currently, the records of the guardianship authorities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 2 unaccompanied children, placed in the professional parental assistance service, which was created including for the placement of refugee children and financed by UNICEF;</li><li>- 14 unaccompanied children without authorized caregiver, most of them being placed in custody, 6 are in the process of establishing custody;</li><li>- 3 children are placed in the guardianship service;</li><li>- 82 children are placed in custody, mostly these children came with their parents to the Republic of Moldova.</li></ul> <p><b>Ms Veronika Lupu, National Association of Women Lawyers</b>, introduced her organisation's anti-trafficking efforts, including protection of women and children. They have a pilot project with law-enforcement agencies and Police Academy for civil servants by providing workshops and training to build AT capacities. They have developed their own indicators to test local authorities' readiness for the potential influx of trafficked persons (with an emphasis on trafficking in children). Nowadays, they are providing training on identifying and providing legal support to victims (legal assistance programs, rehabilitation and integration).</p>	
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