

POLAND PROTECTION SECTOR MEETING

Meeting Minutes – 11 May 2023, 2 PM

Meeting subject:	Monthly Protection Sector Meeting
Time & location:	2pm, hybrid meeting
Chaired by:	UNHCR and the Halina Niec Legal Aid Centre
Minutes prepared by:	UNHCR
Participants:	Fundacja Koalicja dla Młodych, Towards Dialogue, Halina Niec Legal Aid Centre, WHO, Fundacja Q, Fundacja dla Migrantów „Dobry Start”, REACH, PAH, SIP, Oxfam, Safe Passage, CARE, Roma Council, Voice, FDDS, IRC, ICRC, PUI, IMC, DRC, Project HOPE, Faros Elpidas, Action Against Hunger, Americares, NCM, Plan International, CLEAR Global, Jaw Dikh Foundation and Centre of Migration Research, IOM, UNICEF, La Strada, Faros Elpidas, Loop, Clear Global, HIAS, Lutheran World Federation, A2, Polish Red Cross, HIACV, Save the Children, Mercy Corps, Habitat, PCK, Support to Life, Corus International, Soletterre, Two Birds, Caritas, Happy Kids, IFRC, University of Warsaw, Unbreakable Ukraine Foundation, ELIL, Ovum Association, RET International, PSAR, Project Hope, Avesa
Agenda:	Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Introduction (UNHCR) – 5 minii. Updates on legal issues (Halina Nieć Legal Aid Center) – 15 miniii. Updates from the Case Management Task-Force (UNICEF) – 15 miniv. National Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings (IOM) – 15 minv. AOB
AGENDA POINT	DISCUSSION
Introductions and Overview	Participants were welcomed to the thirtieth Protection Sector meeting for the Refugee Response on Poland. The agenda was presented.
Agenda point 1	Halina Niec Legal Aid Centre presented the amendment extending the period of legal stay of Ukrainian citizens covered by temporary protection. After the entry into force of the new regulations, the period of legal stay of Ukrainian citizens will be extended until March 4, 2024, in accordance with the extension of the temporary protection under the TPD. The period of legal stay will be extended until August 21, 2024 for i) persons who on March 4, 2024 will benefit from pre-school education, will fulfill the school obligation or the

	<p>obligation to learn, and for their parents or guardians; ii) persons who on March 4, 2024 will be educated in a kindergarten or school functioning in the Ukrainian education system using distance learning methods and techniques, and for their parents or guardians; iii) persons who, no later than in the 2022/2023 school year, started their education in a 2nd degree vocational school, post-secondary school or school for adults, and for their parents and guardians. The period of legal stay will be extended until September 30, 2024 for persons who take the matriculation examination, and for their parents and guardians.</p> <p>The main legal queries addressed in the legal info points regard cross-border movements and issues with deactivation of PESEL UKR and documentation. Even if a person has not been absent from Poland for more than 30 days, incidents of deprivation of PESEL UKR and of benefits occur. Persons with disabilities face difficulties in having their status recognized in Poland. Applications for PESEL UKR are more and more challenging for individuals relocating from other EU countries to Poland. It has often been reported that municipalities have denied them PESEL UKR, claiming they have received protection in other EU member states.</p>
<p>Agenda point 2</p>	<p>During the next meeting of CP case management, the FDDs will present the tools used by social workers in MOPS and MOPR. One of the key components of case management is the Data Protection and Information Sharing Protocol, and efforts are being made to explore its implementation across all agencies involved in case management. The goal is to mainstream this protocol with the relevant authorities. Invitations for the next meeting, scheduled for next week, will be sent out, including the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the meeting.</p>
<p>Agenda point 3</p>	<p>The National Action Plan against Trafficking in Human Beings for the years 2022-2024 aims to address the issue of trafficking comprehensively. The plan focuses on prevention, strengthening measures, raising awareness, providing support, improving the level of support, enhancing the effectiveness of activities, and improving the qualifications of institutional representatives. Additionally, efforts will be made to develop knowledge on trafficking in persons (TiP) and measure the effectiveness of the measures taken. Poland continues to be both a transit and destination country for trafficking victims. The profile of victims of trafficking includes individuals from Ukraine, Belarus, Romania, as well as countries in Asia such as Vietnam, the Philippines, Uganda, and Sierra Leone. The types of exploitation reported include forced labor, sexual exploitation, and forced begging. Polish nationals are also victims of trafficking, particularly in the context of sexual exploitation, with perpetrators coming from countries like Ukraine, Bulgaria, and Romania. Additionally, Polish nationals can also become victims of trafficking in other countries such as the United States, Germany, Sweden, and others. In Poland, the National Consulting and Intervention Centre for the victims of trafficking, known as KCIK, is administered by the La Strada organization. KCIK serves as a resource for consultation and intervention specifically tailored to assist trafficking victims. A report on anti-human trafficking measures for 2022 has been prepared by MOI (Ministry of Interior) and shared with experts for revision. The report includes interesting statistics indicating that only 31 individuals (19 women and 11 men) were identified as potential victims of trafficking in 2022, which is a remarkably low number considering the large influx of 1.5 million people. Among these 31 victims, 11 were Polish nationals, while the remaining 20 were non-Polish individuals. The non-Polish victims included 9 Ukrainians, 3 Vietnamese, 3 Belarusians, 1 Slovakian, 2 Colombians, and 1 person each from Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and Latvia.</p>