

## POLAND PROTECTION SECTOR MEETING

Meeting Minutes – 22 June 2023, 2 PM

<b>Meeting subject:</b>	Monthly Protection Sector Meeting
<b>Time &amp; location:</b>	2pm, hybrid meeting
<b>Chaired by:</b>	UNHCR and Halina Niec Legal Aid Centre
<b>Minutes prepared by:</b>	UNHCR
<b>Participants:</b>	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
<b>Agenda:</b>	<b>Agenda</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>i. Updates on the Ombudsman’s intervention on evacuated children (Halina Niec Legal Aid Centre) – 5 min</li><li>ii. Improving the delivery of quality medical services for IPV and sexual violence survivors (CARE Poland) – 15 min</li><li>iii. Updates from the recent launch of CMR guidelines in Poland (WHO) – 15 min</li><li>iv. Updates on recent anti-trafficking reports (IOM) – 15 min</li><li>v. Updates from MHPSS TWG (UNHCR/WHO) – 5 min</li></ul>
<b>AGENDA POINT</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>
<b>Introductions and Overview</b>	Participants were welcomed to the thirty-second Protection Sector meeting for the Refugee Response on Poland. The agenda was presented.
<b>Agenda point 1</b>	Halina Niec Legal Aid Centre provided an update on the situation of the returns of children from institutions. In a letter to the Minister of Family and Social Policy, the Polish Commissioner for Human Rights highlighted concerns regarding the return of refugee children from Ukraine to Poland. The Commissioner referred to EU Council Directive 2001/55/EC, which emphasizes that returns of persons enjoying temporary protection should be organized with respect for human dignity, taking into account the best interests of the child.

	<p>The Commissioner invoked Article 72 of the Polish Constitution, which guarantees the protection of children's rights. The Deputy Minister of Family and Social Policy responded, explaining that the Ministry carefully examines each case of minors leaving Ukrainian foster care in Poland. The consent of the guardianship court or family court is required, except when the Consulate of Ukraine confirms the legal guardianship of the person making the decision. The Ministry has been in contact with Ukrainian authorities, and decisions regarding the return of minors are ultimately the responsibility of the Ukrainian side.</p>
<b>Agenda point 2</b>	<p>CARE Poland has presented a brief "Improving Quality Medical Services for Survivors of Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence in Poland." The objective is to aid the translation and implementation of the World Health Organization (WHO) clinical handbook on sexual violence into the Polish healthcare system. The brief includes guidelines and tools, including a training package and quality assurance tool, to promote comprehensive medical and psychological response (CMR) interventions for sexual violence. The target audience is the central and local governments in Poland. The brief covers the context of sexual violence, access to public healthcare services, legal frameworks, and the current status of CMR in Poland. Recommendations for the Ministry of Health include prioritizing patients who have experienced violence, adopting WHO guidelines as standard practice, and developing care pathways based on WHO guidelines. Additional recommendations for the Ministry of Family and Social Policy involve strengthening the role of medical staff and conducting public awareness campaigns in collaboration with various institutions and organizations.</p>
<b>Agenda point 3</b>	<p>WHO presented four key guidelines translated into Polish and launched on May 23 and May 25, 2023, at the Universities of Warsaw and Zielona Góra. This milestone event united WHO and Poland's efforts to provide life-saving healthcare for survivors of sexual and intimate partner violence. The gathering saw participation from around 200 individuals, including government representatives, international stakeholders, scholars, civil society, medical professionals, and students. Discussions focused on strengthening the health system's response to such violence at different institutions. Addressing the Ukraine crisis, experts discussed measures for at-risk populations, including refugees who experienced conflict-related sexual violence and needed immediate healthcare. The guidelines offer evidence-based recommendations for quality clinical care, including mental health support, for children and adolescents who have experienced sexual abuse or rape. The project's next phase aims to implement these guidelines, assessing health system readiness, providing clinical training, and establishing quality assurance frameworks to improve support and care for GBV survivors in Poland's healthcare facilities.</p>
<b>Agenda point 4</b>	<p>IOM provided an update on two critical reports on CT, including <a href="#">the 2023 US State Department Trafficking in Persons Report</a> and the <a href="#">GRETA report</a> by the Group of Expert of the Council of Europe, which feature a chapter on Poland. According to these reports, Poland falls short of meeting all the required standards, and various shortcomings and challenges have been highlighted. The recommendations put forth include the need for increased efforts to identify victims of trafficking, especially among vulnerable populations like refugees from Ukraine and UASC. Another crucial area for improvement is the identification of labor trafficking victims, as it poses a primary challenge. Additionally, the reports suggest augmenting funding to provide better assistance to human trafficking survivors, particularly in terms of accommodation. The GRETA report further recommends various measures such as free legal assistance, legal</p>

	representation, and psychological support for survivors of human trafficking. It also emphasizes the importance of increased funding for organizations like KCIK to enhance labor integration and socio-economic inclusion of trafficking survivors.
<b>Agenda point 5</b>	MHPSS session on scalable intervention took place on 14 June and the 3 <sup>rd</sup> one will take place on 5 <sup>th</sup> July.
<b>AOB</b>	A mapping of all different taskforce that have been put in place in 2023 to discuss different thematic issues is ongoing and Members were asked to share ToRs and frequency of the meeting with the co-leads.

<b>ACTION POINTS SUMMARY</b>				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Status</b>
1.	Protection Sector members to provide share ToRs and frequency of meetings of all taskforces created in 2023	Protection Sector members		Ongoing