

POLAND PROTECTION SECTOR MEETING

Meeting Minutes – 26 January 2023, 2 PM

Meeting subject:	Monthly Protection Sector Meeting
Time & location:	2pm, hybrid meeting
Chaired by:	UNHCR, HFHR
Minutes prepared by:	UNHCR
Participants:	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, Soleterre, Two Birds, Caritas, Happy Kids, IFRC, University of Warsaw
Agenda:	Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction– 5 min• Impact of amendments to the Special Act/ legislative procedure – 15 min• GBV: Coordination updates, 16 days of activism report, GBV referral pathways, and GBV SWG performance survey – 20 min• GBV: Outcomes of CMR workshop (WHO) – 10 min• GBV: GBV safety audit in collective shelter for refugees from Ukraine (IOM) – 10 min• AT: THB in emergencies in the context of war in Ukraine (IOM) – 15 min• AOB
AGENDA POINT	DISCUSSION
Introductions and Overview	Participants were welcomed to the twenty-third Protection Sector meeting for the Refugee Response on Poland. The agenda was presented. An update on the status of action points from the previous meeting was provided.
Agenda point 1	The Halina Niec Legal Aid Centre provided an overview of the main amendments to the Special Act on Assistance to Citizens of Ukraine, which was adopted by the Sejm on 13 th January and entered into force on 28 th January 2023.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 90-days time limit for Ukrainian citizens and their spouses to register their stay in Poland has been shortened to 30 days, thus meaning that they will have 30 days from the date of their arrival in Poland to submit an application for a PESEL UKR number. • Following the repeal of Article 38 of the Special Act, Ukrainian citizens and their spouses cannot apply anymore for a temporary residence permit in Poland bypassing the requirements under the Act on Foreigners. Persons within the scope of the Special Act will only have the possibility to apply for a work-related temporary residence. • Certain covid provisions – extending the legal stay of foreigners in Poland, the validity of documents and temporary certificates, the deadline for applying for a temporary residence permit and the deadline for leaving the territory of Poland and the deadline for voluntary return – will be repealed as of 24th August 2023, thus implying that all foreigners residing in Poland will need to take necessary steps to extend the legality of their stay in Poland on the basis of regular pathways. • Accommodation to which persons covered by the Special Act are entitled will be provided for no longer than 120 days from the date of entry to Poland. After 120 days, refugees will be required to pay 50% of the cost of this assistance, not more than PLN 40 per person per day. After 180 days from the date of first entry of a Ukrainian citizen, assistance may be provided if 75% of the costs of this assistance are covered, not more than PLN 60 per person per day. An exemption from the obligation to bear the costs applies to i) persons with disabilities and persons caring for them; ii) persons who are 60 (women) or 65 (men) years of age or older; iii) pregnant women, persons raising a child up to the age of 12 months, persons with single custody of more than two children; iv) minors and temporary guardians of minors who arrived in Poland without a factual guardian or who were placed in Ukrainian foster care; v) others who are in a difficult situation that prevents them from contributing to the cost of assistance.
Agenda point 2	<p>The 16 Days of Activism report has been shared with partners for inputs. The GBV SWG and Fundacja Autonomia collected activities which were presented in Polish, Ukraine and English. The GBV SWG furthermore developed 26 key messages in consultation with different community groups including Polish citizens, Ukrainian refugees and TCNs refugees. A technical workshop on the adaptation of international guidelines for the health response to survivors of sexual violence to the Polish context has been organized to bring together GBV service providers, women-led organisations, medical service providers, academic institutions, and UN agencies to discuss access to SRH and CMR services for women and girls, LGBTIQ+, refugees and other groups in Poland.</p> <p>The referral pathway kobo tool, which was developed last year in July, is currently being updated and has been developed to help service providers with a more user-friendly version, comprising GBV referral pathways divided per Voivodeship. So far, 17 inputs from different organizations have been provided. Participants were encouraged to contribute and to provide for focal point emails, in order to have a broader and efficient coverage of services.</p> <p>Lastly, the GBV SWG conducted a live survey to have an overview of the overall 2022 performance and to better address gaps in 2023. The main 2023 priorities underlined by the participating organisations were: strategy, participation, monitoring and reporting.</p>

Agenda point 3	<p>WHO shared the outcomes of the technical workshop on the adaptation of UN Guidelines to health response to survivors of sexual violence to the Polish context. The priority actions to support access to and quality of clinical management of rape services in Poland are i) conducting situational analysis, including health gathering from health systems on challenges and overburdening of health system from CSOs, national hospitals, health units; ii) assessing health system readiness, updating CMR procedures/SOPs; iii) coordinating and listing all key stakeholders, eventually creating a CMR/SRH technical taskforce; iv) developing protocol and disseminating guidelines, thus developing a customized and adapted approach by experts and practitioners; v) training and supervision; vi) establishing services, identifying service providers/ best practice at voivodeship level using CSO networks. WHO furthermore informed that the finalization of WHO guidelines in Polish is currently undergoing, its electronic publication and printing being foreseeing for March 2023. Lastly, participants were informed on the WHO LIVE GBV training for all health partners, underlying the possibility to have GBV trainings in Polish as well.</p>
Agenda point 4	<p>The internal findings of GBV safety audits conducted in collective shelters for refugees from Ukraine in late October 2022 were shared by IOM. In Warszawskie Centrum Pomocy Rodzinie (WCPR) – one of Warsaw’s collective centres – focused group discussions took place and engaged persons currently residing in the centre, with key informative interviews and questionnaires to identify child protection and GBV-related risks. The findings were similar in Podkarpackie and in Warsaw: participants in focused group discussions shared that there is a sense of safety in the respective collective centres, although tensions between beneficiaries and those administrating the centres was raised as a concern. In WCPR a number of child protection risks have been identified, such as the lack of children’s supervision and the absence for a safe space for them to spend time. IOM’s recommendations thus suggest focusing more on children’s supervision. Other recommendations concern, among others, the establishment of a complaint mechanism, the division of sanitary spaces for males and females bathrooms which may partially solve the issue of privacy, and strengthening the relationship between staff and residents. Lastly, the need for alignment with GBV SWG safety audits’ recommendations and joint advocacy efforts was highlighted.</p>
Agenda point 5	<p>AT WG aims to foster dialogue among experts, national stakeholders, the Government and support the counter trafficking response in general, providing capacity building to relevant stakeholders, disseminating information, collecting relevant data on human trafficking, monitoring current trends, identifying gaps and barriers. AT WG is currently reviewing last year’s activities, a report will be shared shortly.</p> <p>Human trafficking risks in the context of the conflict in Ukraine were presented by IOM. Following the deterioration of access to income generation, of essential services, and of goods – including food, water, electricity, and heating – internally displaced people and those present in areas of active conflict are at heightened vulnerability to physical and sexual violence, trauma, and other abuses. This consequently increases the risk of sex trafficking, labour trafficking and exploitation, particularly for children and minorities. In 2022, 361 VoTs were assisted within the IOM Ukrain VoT assistance programme, comprising 92% of cases of labour exploitation, 62% survivors being men. The countries of destination were Ukraine (38%), Poland (36%), Russian Federation (17%). Lastly, IOM highlighted</p>

	the importance of engaging survivors sensitively, managing expectations, checking for possible harm, and giving information about reporting grievance, legal remedies and likely steps.
AOB	MHPSS WG will continue to meet within the Health Sector every second Friday of the month. The next Health Sector meeting will take place on 10 th February and discussions will concern both Health and MHPSS related topics. MHPSS WG will share updates in Protection Sector meetings, thus creating a space to discuss MHPSS protection related concerns with Protection, GBV and AT actors. A draft document containing 2023 priorities will be circulated with MHPSS WG members and will be revised on 10 th February. Lastly, the service mapping exercise for MHPSS is ongoing and participants are encouraged to fill it in.

ACTION POINTS SUMMARY				
No.	Action	Responsible	Deadline	Status
1.	RRP 2023 Poland Chapter to be shared	UNHCR	asap	Ongoing
2.	16 Days of Activism Report and GBV referral pathway: inputs to be provided	All partners	asap	Ongoing
3.	MHPSS service mapping: inputs to be provided	All partners	asap	Ongoing