GBV SAFETY ASSESSMENT

“SURVIVING AS WE CAN”

POLAND

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SAFETY ASSESSMENT BACKGROUND

UNHCR Safety Assessment
BACKGROUND

- **Purpose**
  i. **Identify GBV risk areas (including for SEA)** across selected sectors (**accommodation**) and locations across Poland
  ii. **Recommend risk reduction and response measures** across sectors
  iii. Increase **capacity to mainstream GBV risk mitigation** across sector partners / programs

- **Locations**

Warsaw, Rzeszow, Krakow, Łódź, Podkarpackie Voivodship

- **Timeline**

November 2022 - February 2023

- **Consultations**

GBV service providers, shelter managers, social workers, volunteers, security forces, municipal staff, psychologists, faith-based actors, educators, experts (on anti-trafficking, PSEA, Roma inclusion, persons with disabilities)

- **Additional coverage**

Services Access & PSEA Capacity

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SAFETY ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

UNHCR Safety Assessment METHODOLOGY

Qualitative data collection tools from the global **UNHCR Safety Assessment Toolkit:**

- **Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)**

32 refugee women and men

- **Key Informant Interviews (KIIs)**

25 KIIs

- **Observational Checklists**

Lens on PSEA and accessibility for persons with disabilities

- **Sampling:** Purposive & Snowball
- **Trainings:** Data collection team
- **Data analysis:** via DEEP
- **Validation:** in-person workshop

SAFETY ASSESSMENT PARTNERS

UNHCR Safety Assessment PARTNERS

- Centrum Praw Kobiet (CPK)
- CORE
- Foundation Towards Dialogue
- Fundacja Faros Elpidas
- IOM
- IRC
- La Strada- Foundation Against Human Trafficking
- Mudita
- Project Hope
- PRO-FIL
- PSAR
- Sex Work Polska
- The Central Roma Council of Poland
- The European Disability Forum
- The PSEA Network
- The MHPSS Task Force
- Topaz
- UNICEF

SAFETY ASSESSMENT FINDINGS IDENTIFIED GBV RISK AREAS

SAFETY ASSESSMENT FINDINGS IDENTIFIED GBV RISK AREAS

PRIVATE ACCOMMODATION

“I immediately tell the landlord that I am from Ukraine, that I have a child, a family. And after these words, they demand double payment, proof of income and other documents” FGD Participant living in private accommodation, Warsaw

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UNHCR SAFETY ASSESSMENT – IDENTIFIED GBV RISKS
ACCOMMODATION: PRIVATE

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SAFETY ASSESSMENT FINDINGS IDENTIFIED GBV RISK AREAS

COLLECTIVE ACCOMMODATION

“Anyone was able to walk in.” Female psychologist, working in collective accommodation centre, Warsaw, Poland.

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UNHCR SAFETY ASSESSMENT – IDENTIFIED RISKS
ACCOMMODATION: COLLECTIVE

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SAFETY ASSESSMENT FINDINGS IDENTIFIED GBV RISK AREAS

LIVELIHOODS AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION

“Agency is restricted by economic needs. I'm not saying that they are forced to do stuff, I'm saying they have less of a choice in terms of saying no. Not because they are being forced by someone, but they are being forced by the circumstances.” Sex Worker Rights Advocate, Sex worker rights CSO, Poland

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"Where should I go? I have a disability. I cannot work physically for 10, 12 hours because of my health." FGD Participant, living in private accommodation, Warsaw

UNHCR SAFETY ASSESSMENT – IDENTIFIED RISKS
LIVELIHOODS AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION

Substance use

Disruption to economic functioning

Disruption in capacity to plan due to financial insecurity

Personal planning

Susceptibility to misinformation due to psychological distress

Psychological processes

Distress engendered by financial precarity

Competing priorities

Understanding of national employment systems (e.g. self-employment)

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RECOMMENDATIONS

Protection Sector Actors

PROTECTION SECTOR

Recommendations

- Strengthen legal aid provision for survivors/at risk
- Trainings on SOGIESC, disability, Roma inclusion
- Ensure GBV analysis capture at risk group situations
- Include sex worker rights organisations in response
- Continued advocacy
- Integration initiatives to reduce the isolation
- Creation of accessible community spaces for 'excluded'
- Promote diverse CwC on GBV/SEA risks/response
- Integration of gender perspective in all initiatives
- Train frontline staff on safe disclosure and referrals

The Safety Assessment Summary Report (ENG, PL, UA)

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16 Days of Activism Campaign
25 Nov – 10 Dec 2023

"INVEST to Prevent Violence against Women and Girls"

FOCUS: Show importance of financing prevention strategies:

Address economic hardship
Invest in women's rights organizations
Transforming social norms
Addressing unequal gender power relations
Enabling safer environments

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MHPSS

MHPSS continues to be a priority for the refugee response in Poland **cross-cutting key sectors** of child protection, education, GBV, health, livelihoods and protection.

As more than 20% of the 2023 MSNA respondents indicated a degree of psychosocial distress, the acute need to provide **multilayered MHPSS services** for diverse community members as an **integrated part of implementation** remain crucial.

Alongside specialized care, with community members identifying close family as the most trusted source, **further investment in community-based psychosocial support** shall remain a priority for the sectors while overcoming barriers such as stigma and language.