

Moldova Protection Working Group
Protection Advisory Group (PAG)
Terms of Reference
27 January 2025

1. Purpose of the Protection Advisory Group

- The Protection Advisory Group (PAG) of the Protection Working Group provides policy and strategic direction to the work of the Protection Sector. The PAG, which is comprised of two co-chairs (UNHCR and Ombudsperson Office) and eight selected protection organizations, will support the Sector Coordinator and sector members on implementing the sector objectives and work plan and contribute to protection analysis informing sector activities in a consultative manner. Moreover, the PAG will play an active role on championing and strengthening localization of the Protection Working Group in Moldova.

2. Guiding Principles of the Protection Advisory Group

- As with the Protection Working Group, the PAG will be guided by the humanitarian and protection principles in its work.
- Sensitive information is subject to confidentiality.

3. Tasks of the Protection Advisory Group

- As a Protection Advisory Group, the following are the areas of responsibility:

3.1 Strategic role

- Development of protection policy and strategic documents for the Protection Sector and support to the Sector Coordinator on the development of the Protection Working Group strategy and workplan in consultation with sector members.
- Development of information and advocacy notes on protection issues.
- Development of contingency and response plans as well as recommendations of priority interventions.
- Development and advice on resource mobilization and fund-raising strategies.

3.2 Technical support role

- Provide policy, strategy, advocacy and other technical guidance on protection issues to bodies within the Protection Sector, to Protection Working Group members as well as to other working groups, sub-working groups and task forces acting within the Refugee Coordination Forum framework. PAG members are expected to coordinate participation in other sector's coordination spaces to ensure protection is mainstreamed across the refugee response and provide technical support for sector leads on protection related matters in coordination with the Sector Coordinator.

- PAG members will actively contribute to capacity building activities for sector members and other relevant actors in coordination with the Sector Coordinator.
- Advocacy and Advisory role
- Development and implementation of protection advocacy strategies on agreed upon priorities.
- Advising on and bringing protection priorities to the attention of other bodies within the Refugee Coordination Forum.
- Advocacy for fundraising at various forums and levels.

3.3 Coordination role

- Improvement and strengthening of the overall structure, capacity and effectiveness of the Protection Sector, including supporting the Sector Coordinator to promote clear linkages between national coordination structures and Local Refugee Coordination Forums (LRCF).
- Contribute effectively to support Sector Coordinator participation in inter-sector coordination forums and cooperate with other sectors in planning, coordination, and operational activities.
- Strengthen localization of the refugee response in the context of the Protection Working Group, actively promoting effective participation and inclusion of local organizations on sectoral coordination.
- Any public document generated and endorsed by the PAG or the Protection Working Group will be posted on the UNHCR Operational Data Portal and circulated to the membership.

4. Composition of the Protection Advisory Group

4.1 In order to be efficient, the PAG membership is limited to 8 organizations, including the Coordinator and the Co-Chair of the Protection Working Group.

4.2 Requirements for membership:

- Significant thematic technical expertise at the global level on key protection issues in a refugee context or significant operational protection experience in Moldova.
- Ability to be represented in person at meetings of the PAG in Chisinau.
- Capacity to contribute to the main areas of responsibilities outlined in section 3 above and to contribute consistently to the work of the PAG.
- Representation at a senior level, with a designated focal point and alternate (in case of absence of focal point) to attend PAG meetings.
- Commitment to constructive cooperation for the wider purpose of the Protection Sector and the Protection Working Group.

4.3 Selection of PAG members

- A call for interest in PAG membership will be circulated by email to all Protection Working Group members. Organizations interested in becoming PAG members will inform the Sector Coordinator and Co-Chair of the Protection Working Group.
- Applications will be reviewed by a panel comprised by the sector coordinator and co-chair, a donor representative and one member of the sector elected by sector members. A call for interest to be on the PAG selection panel will be circulated by email to all Protection Working Group members.
- In selecting members, efforts will be made to ensure appropriate representation of UN agencies, international NGOs and national NGOs.
- Depending on expressed interest and operational demands, membership will be selected annually or bi-annually, or when a vacancy occurs.

5. Methods of work of the Protection Advisory Group

- 5.1** The PAG will ordinarily meet quarterly and will be convened by the Sector Coordinator and/or Co-Chair. *Ad hoc* meetings may be called by the Protection Working Group Coordinator or Co-Chair or at the request of a PAG member as appropriate.
- 5.2** The meetings of the PAG will be held in Chisinau and chaired by the Protection Working Group Coordinator and Co-Chair. Outside of meetings, necessary decision-making and endorsement will be undertaken electronically among PAG members. In specific cases, UNHCR maintains the right to take a final decision given its overarching responsibilities and accountabilities in refugee response.
- 5.3** An agenda will be circulated in advance of meetings. Any PAG member can request agenda items in advance.
- 5.4** Minutes will be taken and shared within five days after the meetings with all PAG members and the wider Protection Working Group membership. Comments and suggestions on the points under discussion will be channeled through the Coordinator and/or Co-Chair to the PAG for further deliberation as appropriate.

6. Miscellaneous

- 6.1** The Terms of Reference will be reviewed on an annual basis in consultation with Protection WG members and UNHCR.

Moldova, 27 January 2025