

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Inclusion and Livelihoods Working Group

Ukraine Refugee Situation Country-level Refugee Coordination

Moldova

8 April 2022 [Version 3]

1. Background

As a result of the military actions started on 24th February in Ukraine, Ukrainian inhabitants have fled their homes seeking safety, protection and assistance in neighboring countries. Considering the emergency and the humanitarian needs of refugees from Ukraine, the country-level refugee coordination structure was set up by the Government of Moldova and UNHCR, with participation of Government Ministries and other entities, UN organizations, international and local NGOs.

The country-level refugee coordination structure foresees to coordinate a multi-partner response in support of refugees and Government of Moldova and anticipates all partners to act together to maximize the response and avoid duplications and parallel systems. It also aims at guiding joint advocacy initiatives and resource mobilization efforts in support of the country-level response.

The Inclusion and Livelihoods Working Group is one of several Working Groups of the country-level refugee coordination structure set up by the Government of Moldova and UNHCR, with participation of line Ministries and other Government entities, UN organizations, international and local NGOs, the private sector (see [Annex](#) below).

2. Livelihoods and Inclusion Perspectives

The refugee crisis is unfolding in the context of ongoing energy crisis, economic implications of the conflict in Ukraine, with impacts on trade and value chains, agriculture sector, SME sector, etc. as well as implications of over two years of the COVID19 pandemic.

Given such context of Moldova, a dedicated focus of the refugee response should be placed on strengthening resilience of institutions and host communities, livelihoods of refugees through fostering economic inclusion and access to essential services and fostering social cohesion between refugees and host communities. Livelihoods and socio-economic inclusion play a vital role in ensuring refugees become more resilient, self-reliant and reduce risks and vulnerability. To address the challenges of livelihoods, socio-economic inclusion and social cohesion require a combination of short-term and long-term solutions and considerations of both local/regional/national contexts. It further requires close collaboration with the central and local authorities, and other partnership, such as with the private sector, to rally for job creation and support for advocacy efforts.

The Inclusion and Livelihoods Working Group is firmly anchored in the understanding of the context in Moldova and will operate to support and alignment of the Government of Moldova in tackling the refugee crisis on the background of other crises as describe above.

3. Structure

The partners members of the Inclusion and Livelihoods Working Group include representatives of organizations involved in the planning and implementation of the response activities, including, but not limited to government representatives, agencies of the United Nations system, international and national non-governmental organizations, civil society.

The Inclusion and Livelihoods Working Group is chaired by the State Chancellery of the Republic of Moldova and UNDP.

4. Objectives of the Inclusion and Livelihoods Working Group

While the host Government is the primary duty-bearer in any refugee situation in their country, the members of the Inclusion and Livelihoods Working Group will support Government's efforts in leading and coordinating the response in the respective sector.

4.1. *The Inclusion and Livelihoods Working Group will focus on:*

- Enabling a coordinated approach within in the Inclusion and Livelihoods Working Group and with other working groups to strengthen, articulate and complement each other's work and allow for a coherent response in line with the mandate of each organization, international standards and the RRRP.
- Facilitating information exchange among partners in the field of livelihoods and inclusion.
- Implementing coordinated needs assessments to identify the most critical needs of refugees and host communities in the context of socio-economic integration in the host communities and ensuring their livelihoods.
- Supporting the crystallization of response to ensure its focus on livelihoods and socio-economic inclusion – for example identifying context-specific solutions to provide livelihoods for refugees through economic inclusion (access to formal labour markets and finance, entrepreneurship and economic opportunities, etc.) and social inclusion (social programmes and services) as well as social cohesion between refugees and host communities.
- Strengthen advocacy on positive impact that socio-economic inclusion can have on refugees and host communities and build partnerships for response – for example with the private sector, to rally for employment creation.
- Enhancing an evidence-based approach through conducting joint studies, establishing strong monitoring mechanisms, identifying good practices and lessons learnt and producing reports.

4.2. *The responsibilities of the Co-chairs are:*

- Call meetings to set strategies, monitor progress and share summary action points with all partners
- Promote inter-sectorial coordination between other working groups.
- Share information and experiences about needs/gaps analysis to guarantee a common understanding by all partners of the Working Group needs.
- Encourage the use of common needs assessment.
- Participate in relevant inter-sectoral inter-agency meetings and other relevant inter-agency processes to ensure that appropriate linkages are made with other sector's objectives and strategies.
- Facilitate the relationship with relevant Government counterparts and the donor community, and identify common advocacy messages.
- Closely coordinate and ensure complementarity with other working groups in addressing local/host communities needs.

4.3. *The responsibilities members are:*

- Participate, share responsibilities for Group activities.
- Share best practices and findings from assessments or monitoring and evaluations.
- Promote the Minimum Economic Recovery Standards (MERS) and 'do no harm' principles, work towards inclusion in existing systems and services.
- Ensure an age, gender, diversity approach.

5. Modalities

- The Group meets once a week either online or face-to-face.
- The tentative meeting agenda will be shared in advance.
- Members are encouraged to propose agenda items (and host the meeting).
- Minutes of each meeting, including the agreements reached and follow up issues, will be taken by UNDP and circulated with all members via mail within two business days after the meeting.
- Should external members be inviting to a meeting, this will be communicated and agreed upon in advance.

6. Guiding principles

- The Inclusion and Livelihoods Working Group is firmly anchored in the understanding of the context in Moldova and will operate to support and alignment of the Government of Moldova in tackling the refugee crisis on the background of other crises as describe above.
- Partnerships with specialized actors, including training institutions, financial and business development service providers, academia and research institutions will be established or strengthened as required in order to facilitate the inclusion in existing systems and services.
- A participatory approach will be incorporated in all initiatives of the working group to ensure that initiatives respond to refugees needs and capacities.

- All members commit to the vision of generating initiatives that enable the socioeconomic inclusion of refugees in their host communities.
- All activities will be in line with the humanitarian principles and will contribute to hinder exploitation and abuse.

7. Contacts

Co-chairs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDP: Ms Andrea Cuzyova andrea.cuzyova@undp.org, Deputy Resident Representative • State Chancellery: Ms Svetlana Turcanu, Svetlana.turcanu@gov.md, Deputy Secretary General of the Government
Technical focal points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDP: Ms Ioana Creitaru, ioana.creitaru@undp.org, UNDP Surge Advisor to UNDP Moldova • State Chancellery: Ms Aliona Ursoi, aliona.ursoi@gov.md, Deputy chief of the Direction for coordination of policies and priorities

Annex: The Ukraine Refugee Situation Country-level Refugee Coordination for Moldova

