



Poland Protection Sector Terms of Reference (TORs)

Background

By July 2022, some 3 million refugees have crossed into Poland, of which over 1.2 have been granted temporary protection and assistance. The vast majority are Ukrainian refugees who are in need of international protection and assistance. Third-country nationals, refugees of ethnic minorities, inc. Roma/Sinti and stateless persons who fled from Ukraine also face complex protection challenges. To respond to this emergency, in March 2022, UNHCR and partners launched the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) to promote and implement a comprehensive response to support efforts by neighbouring countries to protect and assist refugees coming from Ukraine. UNHCR leads and coordinates the implementation of the RRP in line with the Refugee Coordination Model (RCM) and in close collaboration and consultation with relevant government counterparts, and with the support of inter-agency partners and other stakeholders.

Goal of the Protection Sector

In line with the RCM, the Protection Sector provides technical guidance and oversight to ensure effective, coherent and predictable interventions to support the Government of Poland in its efforts to respond to the protection needs of all asylum seekers and refugees, stateless persons, refugees of ethnic minorities including Roma/ Sinti and other persons of concern fleeing Ukraine, with due considerations for their age, gender and diversity.

Objectives of the Protection Sector

To achieve the above-mentioned goal, the PWG undertakes the following:

- **Joint protection response:** The Protection Sector systematizes, coordinates and facilitates the protection activities of agencies and organizations working with affected population, in line with agency/organization-specific objectives and in respect to mandates and sector expertise. This includes joint efforts in the evidence – based protection analysis, needs/gaps analysis, joint recommendations for responses, working together within the RRP framework to ensure resource mobilization including adequate funding, joint planning, joint information management efforts and joint reporting. It is also important noting that the joint design of interventions provides the necessary accountability framework.
- **Capacity building:** The Protection Sector is responsible for continuous capacity gaps analysis and strengthening the capacity of national and international actors to ensure that protection responses are in line with the strategic priorities, the evolving nature of the protection space and needs of persons of concern.
- **Advocacy:** The Protection Sector is also responsible to identifying advocacy gaps and developing appropriate advocacy messages and tools to engage relevant Governmental and international organizations.
- **Strategic leadership:** The Protection Sector provides support and guidance to all protection actors, including Child protection, GBV, MHPSS actors in the country. The Protection Sector has an oversight role over Child Protection and GBV Sub-Sectors. The Protection Sector also

provides technical guidance to all operational actors on the ground to ensure protection is mainstreamed across all programmatic interventions, in line with international, European and national standards. Protection mainstreaming is the process of incorporating protection principles and promoting meaningful access, safety and dignity in humanitarian aid.

- **Promote diversity and inclusion:** to avoid any instances of discrimination based on age, gender, ethnicity, culture, lifestyle preferences in help provision the Protection Sector provides support and guidance also with respect for cultural differences, based on the experts knowledge of intercultural differences and dialogue.

Principles and definitions

The work of the Protection Sector shall be guided by the main Principles of Partnership, namely:

- Equality among partners in consultation and decision making
- Transparency among partners
- Result-oriented approach to humanitarian action
- Commitment among partners to accomplish undertaken tasks
- Complementarity between the capacity and activities of local and international actors
- Accountability
- Participatory approaches and localization
- Diversity and inclusion

The activities of members of the Protection Sector shall be guided by the **Protection Principles** contained in the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response, namely:

- **Do-no-harm:** avoiding exposing people to further harm as a result of your actions as well as protect people from physical and psychological harm arising from violence and coercion.
- **Impartiality:** providing assistance in proportion to need and without discrimination.
- **Claiming rights:** Assisting people claim their rights, access available remedies and recover from the effects of abuse.
- **Respect for diversity:** aid must be based on and adequate in respect for age, culture and gender differences.

Geographical Coverage

The Protection Sector has a national, country-wide coverage providing strategic direction and guidance to all actors engaged in the response to the Ukraine refugee emergency.

Sector tasks and responsibilities

- Jointly identify gaps and relevant recommendations for response through participatory methods
- Establish and maintain coordination systems to support service delivery, in particular: timely exchange of information, support harmonization of standards and approaches and avoid duplication of services
- Develop and update country-wide and thematic/focused protection analyses
- Develop and manage response plans
- Develop, apply and promote standards, guidelines and good practices, and provide related capacity strengthening including capacity building
- Develop and/or harmonize programmatic and protection information management tools
- Manage information to support decision making
- Peer learning and capacity strengthening and knowledge exchange among partners
- Advocate on behalf of affected populations and sector participants, with special focus on those most at risk and considering diversity and inclusion aspects

- Ensure accountability to affected populations, including engagement with and support of the affected population, promotion of effective two-way communication reflecting languages and communication preferences of persons of concern.

Membership and Chairing

The Protection Sector aims to support Government efforts and in this connection is open to all partners (including government entities, UN agencies and other international organizations, international and national NGOs and the civil society organizations) which are currently or planning to be engaged in actual delivery of protection services (including child protection, GBV, MHPSS services) as part of their humanitarian response to the refugee crisis. Donors can be invited to participate in the Protection Sector meetings as agreed upon by Members. The Protection Sector is co-chaired by UNHCR and the Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights.

Strategic Advisory Group will be elected to support the delivery of operational priorities and the workplan. Members will be elected by the wider Protection Sector.

Meeting and Reporting

The Protection Sector will convene weekly basis, every Thursday at 2pm on Microsoft teams. Ad hoc meetings may be called at short notice in case of specific issues. Minutes of the Protection Sector meetings will be circulated among all members in a timely manner.

Revision of Terms of Reference

The terms of reference guiding the structure and activities of the Protection Sector will be revised every three months and/or based on immediate needs as agreed by the members.