



Note for the File

Event	CT WG Meeting
Date and Place	05.04.2022 15:30, Teams
Attended by	IOM Poland staff (Donatella Bradic, Hanna Dobrzynska, Ewa Gierszewska, Pawel Barabasz, Natalie Payne)
NFF prepared by	Natalie Payne

Introduction from Donatella

- Trafficking was a preexisting issue in Ukraine now with the demographics leaving the country
- More than 100 reports of trafficking have been filed so far in Poland alone, although only one case has been formally identified
- Intention of this WG is to bring community of practitioners and experts together to build a comprehensive network and approach to ensure that specific TIP-related challenges and risks faced by refugees fleeing Ukraine are properly addressed in the regional and national governmental response.

Attendees - Round of Introduction

- Julia Sachenko A21 Ukraine country manger (global countertrafficking organisation)
- Kateryna Krakhmalova - legal intervention org human rights lawyer
- Joanna La Strada -24/7 hotline
- Margaret Lubin - safeguarding lead for Core - support informal shelters where there is concern around trafficking
- Enrica Piras - senior emergency manager for action aid
- Ewa Gierszewska - IOM Poland
- Oksana Fomenko - IOM Kiev (located in Krakow) - reintegration specialist and focal point for law enforcement cooperation - works with NGO network helping internally displaced people
- Loretta Jesudoss
- Nadia Abu Amr - UNHCR
- Rachele Morgante - Habitat for Humanity safeguarding advisor

Identified Risks and Challenges

The chaotic situations that arise as a result of humanitarian crises are natural breeding grounds for the conditions that allow human trafficking and other forms of exploitation to flourish.

So far several risk factors have been identified at the Polish-Ukrainian border since the outbreak of war.

- Demographics: The vast majority of the 2 million fleeing from Ukraine to Poland are women and children, as well as the elderly and the disabled, owing to the Ukrainian rules on conscription for men ages 18-60. These groups are particularly vulnerable to exploitation.
- One considerable risk factor is the lack of registration/identification of volunteers and those offering transport or accommodation to the migrants. Open reception centers allowed unidentified volunteers to have contact with migrants and refugees there. People were made offers of free transport within Poland and abroad, some offering journeys as far afield as Sweden and Germany. However, reports have been made of migrants accepting offers of free transportation, only for the driver to demand money some way into the journey and

become aggressive. In a similar vein, offers of free accommodation particularly for women and young people could lead to situations of exploitation if offers are not vetted.

- UMCs travelling are particularly vulnerable to trafficking and exploitation. Some young people are sent abroad alone while family members are in Ukraine, to find friends or family in other countries. Young people travelling alone are vulnerable for a number of reasons, including in lower capacity for risk perception and judgement. Many shelter options are not suitable for UMCs, and specific measures such as foster care or private accommodation should be made to protect the UMCs best interests.
- The journey to Poland itself poses risk of exploitation and GBV - IOM Poland has received reports from NGOs of sexual assault and abuse of Ukrainian women on the long train journeys into Poland.
- TCNs, who do not have the same protection as Ukrainian nationals under Polish and EU community law, are particularly vulnerable to accepting exploitative offers of work. Without the same social support and right to remain in Poland, TCNs risk becoming irregular migrants very quickly after leaving Ukraine, as they are only granted 15 days stay in Poland without an asylum or temporary residence application. This situation leaves TCNs vulnerable to forced labor, sexual exploitation, and other forms of abuse.

Discussion

- Need for verified reports
- UMCs need to be registered at a certain centre
- UMCs: New law on temporary guardianship in Poland; also possibility of foster care/temporary placement with Ukrainian families in Poland
- Issue of difference of age of majority in Poland and Ukraine (18 vs 16)
- Issue of misinformation and fears that educating migrants of trafficking will prevent people from moving further forward into Poland/EU
- Look into potential areas of cooperation for eg Labor inspectorates
- Awareness raising sessions in reception centres
- Modules on CT online via help.unhcr.org
- Difficulties of developing child friendly information - blue dot centres use board games to share counter trafficking messages (in global protection cluster - CTA task meeting)

Action Points

- To discuss and finalise the operational framework: focus will be on monitoring, mapping, capacity building, and information communication
- Possibility of simultaneous translation to Polish for next meeting, participants to state their preference