



Poland
Counter-Trafficking (CT) Sub-Sector Working Group
Terms of Reference (TORs)

Background

Humanitarian crises amplify existing trafficking trends and patterns or create conditions for new forms of exploitation, resulting in the increased vulnerability of the affected population. There is increasing awareness that trafficking in persons (TIP) and humanitarian crises are closely connected, prompting rapid proliferation of exploitation and abuse in the context of a large scale military conflict, such as that in Ukraine.

By mid-March 2022, more than 2 million refugees from Ukraine, the large majority women and children, have fled to Poland and face many protection challenges, with primary risks including sexual violence and trafficking. The increased vulnerability of that group as the general outcome of the current crisis requires a specific response from the main humanitarian actors involved.

To support the national response and secure tailored assistance provision for affected population, IOM, the leading agency in the field of Counter-Trafficking (CT) in humanitarian settings in partnership with La Strada Poland, the leading CT stakeholder in Poland will lead together the CT Sub Sector Working Group in close collaboration with the Protection Sector, national partner authorities, UN agencies, and NGOs, as well as other agencies and any relevant stakeholders.

Purpose of the Working Group

In line with the Refugee Response Plan, the CT Sub Sector Working Group will aim at building 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. The Group shall be seeking possibilities to offer effective, coherent and sustainable interventions to support the Government of Poland in its efforts to respond to the protection needs of all refugees, stateless persons, and other persons of concern fleeing Ukraine, with due considerations for their age, gender, nationality, and ethnic diversity.

Objectives of the Working Group

With the aim of achieving the above-mentioned objective, the Sub Sector Working Group undertakes the following:

- **Joint counter-trafficking response:** The CT Sub Sector Working Group aims at coordinating and facilitating, in line with CT guidance, counter-trafficking activities of agencies working with affected population, in line with agency-specific objectives and with respect to mandates and sector expertise. This includes joint efforts in the needs/gaps analysis, joint recommendations for responses, working together within the RRP framework to ensure adequate interventions, joint planning, joint information management efforts and joint reporting.
- **Capacity building:** The CT Sub Sector Working Group will provide capacity building support to relevant stakeholders through humanitarian-setting-specific CT training, increasing the expertise of public authorities, civil society organizations, international organizations, and private sector entities. Strengthening the capacity of national and international actors ensure that protection responses are in line with the strategic priorities, the evolving nature of the crisis and the needs of concerned populations.

- **Information and communications:** The CT Sub Sector Working Group will facilitate the development of a comprehensive communication plan and will coordinate the dissemination of the key CT messages, targeting at-risk crisis-affected groups through awareness-raising campaigns.
- **Data Collection:** The CT Sub Sector Working Group will facilitate and coordinate data collection on human trafficking and associated forms of exploitation and abuse in the context of the current humanitarian crisis, displacement, and large-scale migration. Data will include information on refugees' experiences that may be associated with human trafficking or other exploitative practices during their flight from Ukraine. The data collected will be used to facilitate evidence-based policy-making, offering an insight to support estimations of the prevalence of particular risks and measuring the impact of anti-trafficking interventions.
- **Monitoring:** The CT Sub Sector Working Group will monitor the TIP occurrence within the crisis-affected population and its dynamics and trends, identifying potential gaps and addressing common barriers within the existing referral mechanism.
- **Mapping:** The Sub Sector Working Group will aim to carry out systematized and up-to-date mapping of all actors in the CT field and support available to Victims of Trafficking. This will allow for a comprehensive identification of operational needs and gaps, production of joint recommendations for responses, and will ensure adequate funding and allocation of resources.

The Working Group will work toward avoiding duplication of efforts and highlight synergies between relevant stakeholders in close cooperation with national and local authorities.

Principles and definitions

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

- **Do-no-harm:** avoiding exposing refugees to further harm as a result of your actions as well as protect refugees from physical and psychological harm arising from violence and coercion.
- **Impartiality:** providing assistance in proportion to need and without discrimination.
- **Claiming rights:** Assisting refugees claim their rights, access available remedies and recover from the effects of abuse.

Geographical coverage

The CT Working Group has nation-wide coverage, providing strategic direction and guidance to all actors engaged in the Ukraine emergency response in Poland.

Working Group tasks and responsibilities

- Jointly identify gaps and relevant recommendations for response through participatory methods
- Develop, apply and promote standards, guidelines and good practices, including capacity building
- Advocate on behalf of affected populations and sector participants
- Ensure accountability to affected populations, including engagement with and support of the affected population, promotion of effective two-way communication reflecting the languages and communication preferences of people of concern.
- Develop and manage a response plan

Membership and Chairing

The Working Group aims to support the global effort of the Protection Sector and all partners which are currently or are planning to be engaged in the actual delivery of protection services to vulnerable refugees (as part of their humanitarian response to the refugee crisis).

Donors can be invited to participate in the CT Working Group meetings as agreed upon by Members.

The CT Working Group is co-led by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and La Strada Poland foundation.

Meeting and Reporting

The CT Working Group will convene on a weekly basis, every Tuesday at 3:30 pm on Microsoft Teams. Ad hoc meetings may be called at short notice in case of specific issues. The minutes of the CT Working Group 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 Working Group will be revised every two months and/or based on immediate needs as agreed by the members.