

POLAND NATIONAL PROTECTION SECTOR MEETING

Meeting Minutes – 21 April 2022

Meeting subject:	Weekly National Protection Sector Meeting
Time & location:	2pm, online meeting
Chaired by:	Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights; UNHCR
Minutes prepared by:	UNHCR
Participants:	Acted; ActionAid; ADRA Poland; Americares; Association for Legal Intervention; AVSI; Care International; CLEAR Global/Translators without Borders; CRS; Corus International; Halina Nieć Legal Aid Center; ICRC; IFRC; Hayata Destek; Helsinki Foundation for Human Rights; Intersos; IOM; Medair; NCA; NED; Norwegian Refugee Council; Oxfam; Plan International; Premiere Urgence; Project Hope; Polish Red Cross; Reach Initiative; Relief International; RET International; Safe Passage; UK Department for International Development; UN Global Compact Network Poland; UNHCR; UNICEF; WHO.
Agenda:	<p>Agenda</p> <p>Introduction</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Status of action points <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RRP Indicators 2) Focus on Stateless persons 3) Advocacy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problems to be addressed through advocacy • Advocacy priorities • Advocacy targets 4) AOB
AGENDA POINT	DISCUSSION
Introductions and Overview	Participants were welcomed to the sixth weekly Protection Sector meeting for the Refugee Response on Poland. The agenda was presented.
Agenda point 1	UNHCR provided a status update of the action points from the 14 April Protection Sector meeting:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first action point highlighted that a time should be put aside to discuss the specific situation of stateless persons. This was added as an agenda item for the present meeting. • The second action point had to do with updates to the service mapping platform managed by UNHCR. This has been delayed. An update will be provided at the next meeting. • The third action point covered updates to the Refugee Response Plan (RPP) indicators based on feedback given during the last meeting. The proposed revised indicators were presented. A proposal by Clear Global to disaggregate all indicators by languages was discussed. Clear Global highlighted that indicators provide a strong signal to partners to consider the inclusion of different and relevant languages to ensure meaningful access to information, assistance and services. In response, it was highlighted that the indicator on awareness raising is difficult to measure, making disaggregation by languages more complicated. A balance must be found between the additional reporting burden induced by additional disaggregation requirements and the added value it provides. As a compromise, it was proposed that language disaggregation could be made optional so that partners have the opportunity to report it if desired. UNHCR encouraged to have a separate reflection on a guidance for partners to address communication needs, possibly through the AAP Working Group.
Agenda point 2	<p>The situation of stateless persons was discussed in more detail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helsinki Foundation for Human rights highlighted that Poland is not party to the 1951 and 1964 statelessness conventions. Data on the stateless population in Poland is lacking. There is also no determination procedure on statelessness under Polish national law. The recent act on assistance to Ukrainian citizens has also not addressed the issue of statelessness. Stateless individuals or those who cannot prove their residence status in Ukraine prior to 24 February are at increased risk. • The Halina Niec Legal Aid Center shared a presentation on statelessness. It was highlighted that the as per the last census there were 82,550 stateless people in Ukraine. As per a UNHCR estimate from 2021 there were at least 35,000 stateless and people of undetermined nationality. However, at the end of 2021 only 6,047 stateless people were legally residing in the country. Groups within Ukraine with individuals at increased risk of statelessness include Roma, children born in Crimea, Donetsk and Luhansk after 2014, and former citizens of the USSR who were unable to demonstrate permanent residence in Ukraine in 1991. The presentation is attached.
Agenda point 3	<p>A discussion took place on how to achieve advocacy through the protection sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR highlighted coordination of advocacy is part of the Terms of Reference of the protection sector. As such, the sector is well placed to help coordinate advocacy efforts. UNHCR also asked partners to consider the topic of advocacy for next

	week's meeting. Specifically, what partners see as the main problems that can be addressed through advocacy and who partners identify as the primary targets for advocacy.
AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> UNHCR presented the recently completed partnership between Hilton and Booking.com. Through the partnership, Hilton has offered one million free hotel nights for individuals coming from Ukraine. The program is for both Ukrainian citizens and third-country nationals. It is also valid in Hilton hotels across Europe. Organizations can refer beneficiaries for short term accommodation of up to two weeks through referral pathway. To access the referral platform organizations must express interest to UNHCR.

ACTION POINTS SUMMARY				
No.	Action	Responsible	Deadline	Status
1.	Dissemination of final indicators for the protection sector	Co-leads	28 April	Pending
2.	Facilitate a discussion of protection issues faced by Roma people	Co-leads	28 April	Pending
3.	Provide access to interested partners to the service mapping platform to facilitate the provision of feedback	UNHCR	20 April	Done
4.	Dissemination of referral pathway for accommodation through Booking.com	UNHCR	28 April	Done