



## Anti-Trafficking Taskforce

Meeting Details	
Date	24 June 2022
Time	Zoom
Chair	Diana Doros, Head of the Coordination Directorate for Human Rights and Social Dialogue, State Chancellery  Co-chairs: Martina Bogdeva, Anti-Trafficking Specialist, UNHCR Diana Donoaga-Certan, Protection Programme Coordinator, IOM
Reporting	N/A
Email	bogdeva@unhcr.org
Agenda	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Welcome remarks</li> <li>2. Introduction of the Task Force (TF) on Trafficking in Persons. Discussion on the TF TOR</li> <li>3. Structured tour de table on main anti-trafficking responses</li> <li>4. Presentation of recommendations on the need to enhance anti-trafficking prevention amid mass migration flows and self-assessment checklist</li> <li>5. Q&amp;A and Meetings' schedule</li> <li>6. Wrap-up</li> </ol>	
Information collection and relevant links	
<p>Please use the below link to fill out information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Program of creation and development of a National mechanism of referral for protection and assistance of victims of crimes for 2022-2026 years and Action Plan for 2022-2024</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.anas.md/">https://www.anas.md/</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.osce.org/cthb/513784">https://www.osce.org/cthb/513784</a></li> <li>• <a href="https://www.osce.org/cthb/516423">https://www.osce.org/cthb/516423</a>.</li> <li>• Link to operational data portal: <a href="https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784">https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784</a></li> </ul>	
Participants	



State Chancellery, General Prosecutor’s Office, Centre for Combatting Trafficking in Persons, Border Police General Inspectorate, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Centre of Assistance and Protection of Victims and Potential Victims of Trafficking,	National Agency for Social Assistance, Ministry of Education, UNHCR, IOM, OSCE, ILO, UNODC, UNFPA, UNDP, INTERPOL	Isra AID, La Strada, CNPAC, Plan International, IRC Moldova, Operation Orphan, People in Need, War Child, Reach my Street, ADRA Moldova.
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### Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<b>Welcome remarks</b>	<p>Diana Doros, Head of the Human Rights Coordination and Social Dialogue Department, State Chancellery, welcomed the participants and presented the agenda of the meeting. She praised enhanced coordination for the anti-trafficking dialogue, in a new format, as there is a range of national and international platforms on the subject. She also underlined that OSCE recommendations, Council of Europe GRETA Group of Experts’ “Guidance Note on addressing the risks of trafficking in human beings related to the war in Ukraine and the ensuing humanitarian crisis” had been examined and distributed to the national authorities; the collaborations with NGO, UN and EU Agencies: IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR, UNODC, UN Women, Frontex and Europol were launched at different levels in the context of response to the refugee crisis. She said that this discussion platform was proposed to be created to have a coordinated and informed response with all national and international actors in the field of preventing trafficking in human beings in the context of the refugee crisis.</p> <p>The IOM representative, Diana Donoaga-Certan, thanked the Government of Moldova for over 20 years of partnership on anti-trafficking and highlighted the long-standing tradition of effective and cordial cooperation and coordination in this area in Moldova. She expressed the hope that the Task Force would continue and reinforce this tradition and stated IOM’s commitment to support with its national and international experience.</p>	<p>To share OSCE and Council of Europe recommendations on TiP</p> <p><b>Responsible:</b> chairs <b>Deadline:</b> 8 July</p>

	<p>The UNHCR representative, Martina Bogdeva, welcomed the participants, creation of the Task Force and invited the participants to introduce themselves.</p>	
<p><b>Presentation of the TF TOR</b></p>	<p>The State Chancellery’s representative presented the key points of the circulated Terms of Reference. The main objective of the TF is to facilitate the compilation and dissemination of situational information and evidence on risks of trafficking among the refugees and third-country nationals (TCN) for the purpose of informing and supporting government-led efforts to combat TiP and ensuring accountability and respect for the rights of survivors/victims and people at risk, at country and regional level.</p> <p>The second objective is to <b>support effective and coordinated action</b> of partners involved in anti-trafficking responses at country and, where relevant, regional level. This may include, but not limited to, work among TF participants on coordinated gaps and needs assessments, joint advocacy, coordinated and/or joint awareness-raising, capacity development, technical assistance, and operational responses.</p> <p>The third objective of the Task Force on AT is to <b>provide practical recommendations and advice</b> at the operational level to ensure responses to identify, prevent and address risks and incidents of TiP, with a focus on ensuring respect for the rights of survivors and people at risk.</p> <p>At first, the Task Force will be meeting every two weeks then later on, once per month depending on the needs. Concerning the organization of the work, Diana Doros proposed to include the recommendations of GRETA, OSCE, other platforms in a single document which would serve as an action plan and opened discussion on the presented Terms of Reference.</p> <p>The Interpol representative, thanking the meeting for the invitation, welcomed the content of the Terms of Reference, and stated that they were much in line with the strategy and project for implementation considering the Moldova context.</p> <p>The OSCE Moldova representative, Ala Vechiu, welcomed organization of the meeting right after the National Committee on Anti-Trafficking and corresponding to the actual context.</p>	<p>To send the Action Plan with integrated recommendations on TiP</p> <p><b>Responsible:</b> chairs <b>Deadline:</b> 8 July</p>

	<p>The ILO representative, Ala Lipciu, gave thanks for the comprehensive ToR, especially for outlining the main tasks and responsibilities and welcomed the enhanced coordination of all involved actors. For instance, several actors are providing capacity-building activities and better coordination and information sharing is necessary.</p> <p>The State Chancellery representative agreed on the comments and concluded that the Terms of Reference were approved.</p>	
<p><b>Structured tour de table on main anti-trafficking responses</b></p>	<p>The Ministry of Education and Research’s representative, Analysis, Monitoring and Evaluation of Policies Department, presented the main measures as the integration of families into the educational national system at all levels and the statistics which slightly decreased recently from 1,646 children enrolled in pre-school – 487 and school levels – 1,159 in April 2022 to 1,644 on 22 May. All necessary procedures and exams were organized according to standards.</p> <p>The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection’s representative, Policies Department for Protection of the Rights of the Child and Families with Children, informed the meeting that national legislation included the protection of refugee children, but also stating that some procedures had been clarified concerning unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and external partners and several policy papers issued. According to them, responsible persons for UASC were assigned in support to guardianship authorities. An institution of placement of UASC was in Carpineni, Hincesti district, and another 30 alternative care services were prepared. An information system was put in place for the accountability. To this date, a total number of 12,375 children have benefitted from a form of protection and monitoring and at present 4,402 children are being monitored, of them 42 are undocumented and 49 are with disabilities. The total number of all children present in Moldova is over 40,000.</p> <p>The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection’s representative, Policies Department for ensuring equality between men and women, informed the participants also on facilitating employment of 580 Ukrainian refugees by 17 June 2022, mainly in four big cities. Refugees are assisted by the social services to enrol for cash-assistance and other services. Informative materials were elaborated with IOM and disseminated. In March, the <a href="#">Program of creation and development of a National mechanism of referral for protection and assistance of victims of crimes for 2022-2026 years and Action Plan for 2022-2024</a> was approved, including victims of TiP. The capacity of multidisciplinary teams was built.</p>	

The Head of the Centre for Combatting of Trafficking in Persons informed that UASC were monitored on two platforms: Europol Spring and Interpol. Cases of children begging were observed in commercial centres and measures were taken to stop this practice. Other measures on irregular migration were taken.

The Head of the Anti-Trafficking Section of the General Prosecutor’s Office informed on several measures taken since 24 February 2022, such as not punishing refugees for undocumented or even illegal border crossing but prosecuting the organizers of illegal migration. No cases of trafficking in persons (TiP) were identified, and the main observed trend was irregular migration. Another good practice was capacity-building sessions organized with the support of IOM through funding by INL.

The National Social Assistance Agency’s representative informed that from initially 108 Refugee Accommodation Centres, 78 remain open, with 3,145 accommodated persons, of whom 1,320 are children and 107 are persons with disabilities. If necessary, centres that had been closed can be reactivated; for additional information, weekly reports are published on the website <https://www.anas.md/>.

The representative of the Centre for Assistance and Protection of Victims and Potential Victims of Trafficking (CAP) informed of the types of assistance available to victims of trafficking, as well as vulnerable refugees who can be accommodated at the Centre. Service that can be accessed via CAP include accommodation, meals, MHPSS, and other needs-based services.

The ILO National Coordinator in Moldova informed on reprogrammed funds to respond to the refugee crisis, information campaigns, and capacity building for labour inspectors.

The Plan International’s (PI) deployed Child Protection Advisor stated that PI is providing several activities on prevention of TiP, including child friendly messages.

La Strada’s Public Policy Analyst presented the activities of the NGO on anti-trafficking, such as elaboration and dissemination of information materials with the support of IOM and UNHCR, the

	<p>activity of the anti-trafficking hotline, mobile teams to assist refugees in refugee accommodation centres (RACs), collaboration with other NGOs.</p> <p>The UNHCR representative highlighted the concern of digital risks for human trafficking through online advertisements and need of increasing information awareness, expressing readiness to assist with preparation of the information awareness campaign.</p> <p>The IOM Programme Coordinator discussed general concerns associated with trafficking risks, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the majority of refugees are women with children initially assisted by unvetted volunteers;</li><li>• scarcity of long-term livelihoods opportunities and strains on the host communities that can prompt people, particularly in vulnerable situations, to accept risky offers of employment and other opportunities in a mid- to long-term perspective;</li><li>• special risks for the marginalized ethnic minorities, such as the Roma nationals (undocumented and stranded nationals of Ukraine and the Russian Federation).</li></ul> <p>No specific cases of TiP have been identified, but there are anecdotal reports that emerged from a recent training organized by IOM for frontline border police of the recruitment, transportation, and exploitation of vulnerable Ukrainians for the purpose of collecting social benefits (criminalized as a form of trafficking in Moldova). This information has been conveyed to the specialized law enforcement authorities. New challenges in this sense are expected and the Task Force is expected to work with the Government to address them.</p>	
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<p><b>Presentation of recommendations on the need to enhance anti-trafficking prevention amid mass migration flows and self-assessment checklist</b></p>	<p>The OSCE Senior Coordination Advisor, Tetiana Rudenko, Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, Vienna, presented the main recommendations considering the offline and online risks for Ukrainian refugees:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. On the need to enhance anti-trafficking prevention amid flows of persons from Ukraine, 9 March 2022.</li> <li>2. On enhancing efforts to identify and mitigate risks on trafficking in human beings online, as a result of the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, 22 April 2022.</li> </ol> <p>Recommendations on the need to enhance anti-trafficking prevention amid mass migration flows - <a href="https://www.osce.org/cthb/513784">https://www.osce.org/cthb/513784</a> and Recommendations on enhancing efforts to identify and mitigate risks of trafficking in human beings online as a result of the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine - <a href="https://www.osce.org/cthb/516423">https://www.osce.org/cthb/516423</a>. On the online medium, it is important to monitor and to have electronic platforms with the report function and people to know how to report to NGOs.</p> <p>The OSCE representative stated the importance of the self-assessment tool, key role of the multi-agency Task Force, having a strategic action plan for the short-, mid- and long-term, periodic review to trace the progress and remaining issues.</p>	
<p><b>Q&amp;A and next meetings' schedule</b></p>	<p>The State Chancellery representative proposed bi-weekly meetings in mixed format (online and offline). The agenda item on the anti-trafficking digital prevention capacity is to be discussed at the next meeting. The proposals were accepted.</p>	
<p><b>Wrap-up</b></p>	<p>The State Chancellery representative highlighted the importance of the self-assessment exercise and promised to share recommendations of OSCE and Council of Europe on TiP. The IOM Protection Consultant, Hanna Antonova, suggested an online template for the Action Plan to facilitate contributions of the Task Force members. For more information on the coordination and establishment of the Task Force, please reach to: Hanna Ursol, E-mail: <a href="mailto:ursol@unhcr.org">ursol@unhcr.org</a></p>	