

## Minutes

### Protection Working Group meeting - 28 June 2022 Microsoft Teams online

**Agencies present:** UNHCR, UNICEF, IOM, UNFPA, MozaiQ, ANES, IFRC, Norwegian Council for Refugees, Catholic Relief Services, Sensiblu Foundation, Romanian Peace Institute (PATRIR), Medecins du Monde, Danish Refugee Council, Mercy Corps, Voice, World Vision International, ICRC, ICAR Foundation, SOS Children Villages, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, HIAS, Oxfam

#### Main topics discussed:

- Tour de table, introductory remarks, and agenda points presentation
- Participants expressed expectations and the following areas of interest for the PWG:
  - Romania specific protection data and trends;
    - **Action point:** UNHCR and interagency team are working on protection trends and a presentation of such trends will be sought included in the agenda of the next PWG meeting.
  - National coordination structure and inclusion of more national partners: the minutes from the weekly National Coordination Mechanism could be translated and included in the PWG
    - **Action point:** UNHCR to look into including the notes/or a summary from the weekly NCM in the PWG meeting.
  - There is a lack of information about who is working where are who is funding the activities of protection partners. Information on who is doing what and where (5Ws) is scattered across sectors/working groups, with a potential for overlap of mapping of some activities.
    - **Action point:** Service mapping with information on partner activities is already underway through the sector 5W, which will be recirculated after the meeting. A column will be included to report on the source of funding for the activities.
  - Common advocacy on access the services, legal rights, and social protection; GBV. One partners requested more information on how to go about advocacy relating to the refugee program; advocacy
  - Participants were invited to further share suggestions for areas of work and interest that the PWG should follow up on
- Protection updates
  - Several protection risks and concerns were raised by participants for future discussion and follow up through the PWG:
    - Families returning to Ukraine due to economic and social unsustainability stemming from language barriers and lack of sufficient childcare resources; More work is needed to prevent GBV and MHPSS issues in this context.
    - Private refugee accommodation centers may present a protection risk, as there may for instance be one man organizing a center with 15 families (all women and children); Monitoring through authorities and civil society and providing training and standards are needed to mitigate these risks.

- The fact that accommodation in reception centres is at 20% shows that conditions are not considered adequate by most refugees in terms of privacy, especially for women and children.
  - There are issues with registration on the platforms of family doctors and National Insurance Agency that hamper access to healthcare (people fleeing Ukraine should have the same access to education and healthcare as a Romanian citizen)
  - Access to sexual and reproductive health is also notably difficult for both Ukrainian refugees and Romanian women; Medical doctors do not immediately refer them to a willing medical service provider
  - CBI concern – the financial support of 568 LEI is too low; asylum seekers receive 900 LEI and more advocacy is needed to provide the same amount to Ukrainian refugees as well
  - Access to information: People do not know what services are available, and field staff have to explain even to partners who attend weekly meetings what services exist; Many people do not even know about Dopomoha and some people believe there is no more accommodation available.
- **Inter-agency update**
    - PWG members were asked to fill in the gaps in the live 5W document presented by Ahmed Abdulfattah Awni al Ajmi (Information Management Officer with the Inter Agency Team). All partners have access to the document through the PWG folder on SharePoint. The link to the 5W document is to be circulated to all members
    - PWG members expressed a need to centralize all 5W mapping information and make the information available to POCs. It was also suggested to centralize the information about donors
  - **GBV updates**
    - Referral pathways have been finalized and are being translated into Russian, Ukrainian, and Romanian; to be received from translators within this week; documents will be circulated with PWG members and partners, MozaiQ (the only LGBTQI+ organization) has been added to the referral pathways.
    - UNHCR will work with two partners namely Sensi Blu Foundation and Plan International in collaboration with ADRA Romania on GBV
    - PWG members were invited to provide more information on GBV activities
    - UNFPA will take up several issues with the government (especially clinical management of rape, provision of pep kits and the forensic medical support to the GBV survivors)
    - UNICEF to return with more updates once partnerships will be finalized, currently UNICEF is working on strengthening the national response to sexual violence and developing an inter-institutional capacity of the network working on sexual violence; UNICEF is developing a partnership in order to facilitate access to integrated services including legal assistance for victims of sexual violence from Ukraine.

- **AAP and CwC**
  - A second meeting was held of the AAP CwC Task Force and additional members will be added to the distribution list
  - Key issues discussed in the Task Force: information provision to refugees; UNHCR Telegram channel to be launched
  - No other partner mentioned in the PWG meeting that they are working with Telegram
- **AOB**
  - Oxfam has a partner-led intervention through seven local partners, supporting activities in prevention and response to human trafficking in Bucharest and surrounding areas, supporting phones centers for humanitarian and social assistance and shelters in several locations (Iasi, Bucharest, Suceava, and Bacau), providing accommodation forms or referrals to basic protection specialized services, supporting PATRIR with food distribution, refurbishing shelters for women and LGBTQI+ in Chernivtsi (PATRIR also organizing capacity building workshops for authorities and frontliners inclusion in Bucharest on topics such as GBV prevention, trauma, informed response, and implicit bias awareness, youth awareness and volunteer training), and supporting FCR, a confederation of 12 community foundations and their subgrantees in education, integration and social cohesion activities.
  - Since the timing of the anti-trafficking meeting is conflicting with the PWG meeting, Wednesday 10:30 – 12 pm was proposed as a new meeting time; No final decision was taken and the new meeting time is to be communicated in the following days
- **Next steps**
  - **GBV referral pathways document to be uploaded on Dopomoha this week (tentatively)**
  - **PWG members to fill in information gaps in 5W**
  - **National Coordination Mechanism weekly meeting notes to be compiled, translated, and included in the PWG meetings**
- **Participation summary**
  - **22 agencies in total: 4 UN agencies, 1 government agency, 4 local NGOs, 13 INGOs**