The Implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive: Six Months On

UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe, October 2022
Context

- Over 7.6M refugees recorded across Europe (11 Oct., UNHCR)
- On 4 March 2022, the EU triggered the application of the TPD
- Over 4.2M refugees registered for TP/similar national protection schemes (11 Oct., UNHCR)
TPD: promising practices

Scope: UNHCR encouraged expansive approach to groups included under TPD

Enhanced registration capacity: network of registration centres, interactive maps

Digitalisation: online systems facilitate process, reduce backlogs, enable two way communication

Documenting identity: generous approaches, recognising difficulties refugees can have

Issuance of documentation and access to rights: ‘under one roof approach’

Methodology

- 26 countries covered
- Research conducted by UNHCR
- Contributions made by ICVA members incl. DRC & WVI & partners for four countries
Main findings

1. Rights are interdependent

2. Refugees face a range of practical, administrative & legal barriers

3. PWSNs faced increased challenges

4. Several identified barriers are equally faced by refugees from elsewhere
Registration

Top five barriers

- Long queues: 11/26 countries
- Lack of interpretation services: 8/26 countries
- Difficulty accessing registration point: 8/26 countries
- Refusal of access to registration services: 7/26 countries
- Difficulty accessing information: 4/26 countries
Documentation

Types

- Residence permit: 14/26 countries
- TP certificate / card: 7/26 countries
- ID card: 3/26 countries
- Passport sticker: 2/26 countries

Time taken

- Hours: Avg. 1 hour
  - IN: 9 countries
  - 26 countries
- Days: Avg. 1 day
  - IN: 1 country
  - 26 countries
- Weeks: Avg. 3 weeks
  - IN: 8 countries
  - 26 countries
- Months: Avg. 2.2 mts
  - IN: 5 countries
  - 26 countries
- No information: 3 countries
Education

Top five barriers

1. Lack of space in local school: 22/26 countries
2. Language barriers: 17/26 countries
3. Lack of permanent address: 12/26 countries
4. Lack of information: 4/26 countries
5. Lack of specific documents required to register with local schools: 4/26 countries
Labour market

Top five barriers

- Lack of child care arrangements: 22/26 countries
- Language barriers: 18/26 countries
- Lack of information: 13/26 countries
- Lengthy and complicated skills recognition procedures: 12/26 countries
- Lack of decent employment opportunities: 9/26 countries
Social protection

Top five barriers

- Lack of information: 15/26 countries
- Cost of living exceeds social protection support: 14/26 countries
- Language barriers: 12/26 countries
- Different level of access to social protection to nationals: 11/26 countries
- Lack of permanent address: 7/26 countries
Healthcare

Top four barriers

- Language barriers: 11/26 countries
- Lack of capacity of the healthcare system: 9/26 countries
- Lack of information: 5/26 countries
- Access limited to emergency care only: 4/26 countries
Accommodation

- All 26 countries have a scheme in place

- Assistance schemes vary by country

- Assistance schemes are predominantly for the *short-term*

- Limited access to long-term housing has a *multifaceted impact* on refugees
Persons with specific needs

- 24% of HHs have at least one family member with a specific need \( (UNHCR\ PM) \)

- 17/26 countries have identification procedures, albeit with gaps

- Nine countries lack identification procedures
Freedom of movement

- In most countries, travel to Ukraine/third country has no impact on TP status
- In some countries, TP status could be revoked and/or social benefits could cease

Family reunification

- Family separation is defining feature of displacement from Ukraine
- 11/26 countries have no system to reunite families
Key recommendations

1. Need for increased coherence in TPD application
2. Addressing various barriers is critical to ensure inclusion
3. Refugees can be part of the solution
4. Early and systematic identification of PWSNs needed
5. Lessons learned from application of TPD have potential wider relevance