



Protection Working Group

Meeting Details	
Date	2.11.2022 - Next meeting on 16.11.2022
Time	10.00 am
Chair	Andrew Painter, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR, Sector Coordinator; Carolina Cazaciuc, Coordinator on Refugee Rights, Ombudsman Office, Co-Chair
Reporting	Olga Bitca, Protection Associate, UNHCR
Email	painter@unhcr.org , carolina.cazaciuc@ombudsman.md
Agenda	
<p>Welcome & Review of Agenda (10:00-10:10)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Situational update (10:10-10:20) (INTERSOS and CDA)• Updates (10:30-10:50)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ukraine developments (conscription; return of TCNs)• Participatory Assessments• Temporary Protection• Presentations (10:50-11:30)<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation on the UNHCR Regional Bureau Report on six (6) months of implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive• AOB	



Participants			
<i>Tatiana Rotaru, Joint Management Crisis Center, Khatuna Margulia, USAID</i>	<i>Katherine Lamp, UNHCR</i>	<i>Lindsay Bingam, HelpAge</i>	<i>Oleg Hincu, Palladium</i>
<i>Tatiana Lungu, USAID</i>	<i>Olesea Cazacu, UNDP</i>	<i>Ina Rusu, ADRA</i>	<i>Irina Rotaru, CERI</i>
<i>Ersilia Apreda, IOM</i>	<i>Diana Panov, CDA/LCA</i>	<i>Dominique Louise Sbardella, Warchild</i>	<i>Dan Mandef, PEC</i>
<i>Virginie M. Moncrieff, IOM</i>	<i>Nosheen Nosheen, UNFPA</i>	<i>Anatol Donu, Caritas Czech Republic,</i>	<i>Wolfgang Moser, Jugend Eine Welt</i>
<i>Tanita Cotarcea, IOM</i>	<i>Abandokht Sarkarati, UNFPA</i>	<i>Maria Nazarenko, People in Need</i>	<i>Vitalie Popov, Greenline</i>
<i>Martina Castaldello, OHCHR,</i>	<i>Stavros Zotos, Plan International</i>	<i>Adel Sasvari, Oxfam</i>	<i>Adel Sasvari, Oxfam</i>
<i>Martina Bogdeva UNHCR</i>	<i>Stefania Martello, ACTED</i>	<i>Diakonie, DKH</i>	<i>Diakonie, DKH</i>
<i>Monica Vazquez, UNHCR</i>	<i>Natalia Yakubovska, NRC</i>	<i>Emilija Davidov, IRC</i>	<i>Emilia Davidov, IRC</i>
<i>Sean Sager, UNHCR</i>	<i>Maja Mandrapa Terzic, DRC</i>	<i>Aleksandra Andjelic, IRC</i>	<i>Aleksandra Andjelic, IRC</i>
<i>Carolina Sclifos, UNHCR</i>	<i>Dania Trefji, INTERSOS</i>	<i>Aleksandra Andjelic, IRC</i>	<i>Anatol Donu, CCR</i>
<i>Hanna Ursol, UNHCR</i>	<i>Marin Onica, CCR</i>	<i>Eloi Rouillon, Biblio sans Frontieres,</i>	<i>Marianna Prysiazhniuk, Internews</i>
	<i>Hana Badando, MSF Moldova</i>	<i>Cristina Triboi, Terre des Hommes</i>	<i>Andi Szenasi, Watch</i>
			<i>Natalia Sorbala, Dorcas</i>



Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p>Agenda Point 1</p> <p>Welcome & Review of Agenda</p> <p>Andrew Painter, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR, Sector Coordinator; Carolina Cazaciuc, Coordinator on Refugees Rights, Ombudsperson Office, Co-Chair.</p> <p>painter@unhcr.org, carolina.cazaciuc@ombudsman.md</p>	<p>The PWG chair welcomed participants, thanked them for their presence, and encouraged them to attend in person for future meetings, in order to have more engaging discussions. He presented the agenda, and no objections were raised.</p> <p>If any modifications are necessary to minutes of the PWG, please contact: bitca@unhcr.org</p>	<p>Agenda presented and agreed</p>



<p>Agenda Point 2 Situational update</p> <p>Dania Trevi, Protection Officer, INTERSOS</p> <p>Diana Panov, Protection Monitoring Officer</p> <p>CDA/LCA</p> <p>sager@unhcr.org</p>	<p>INTERSOS provided a situational update from Palanca bus station. In the past 2 weeks, the number of arrivals was quite low, except for evacuations from the organizations <i>Be an Angel</i> and <i>Gloria</i>. The total number of arrivals was between 80 and 100 individuals. In terms of vulnerabilities, some of the arrivals had physical disabilities or were elderly. Members of the Roma community continue to arrive and are assisted by INTERSOS's Roma community cultural mediators. INTERSOS also observed a low number of third country nationals arriving, including individuals from Azerbaijan and Russia.</p> <p>The majority of the arrivals came from Odesa, Mykolaiv, and Vinnytsia oblasts, with most continuing their journey to Romania or Germany (via Romania). Some arrivals expressed their desire to stay in Moldova, specifically Chisinau, due to the flexibility of being able to work and the ability to stay in rented accommodations, as opposed to in the EU where there is a mandatory stay in official accommodations centers for 3 months upon arrival.</p> <p>Some arrivals cited that there are increasing challenges in Odesa Oblast, specifically a shortage of electricity and heating. There is a need to track this in the coming weeks, as more people might arrive during winter due to these issues. Furthermore, arrivals stated that the safety and security situation in Odesa is getting worse, not only due to an increase in shelling, but also an increase in crime, such as physical assaults and theft. Those arriving from Mykolaiv stated that there is lack of drinkable water in the region for more than 6 months.</p> <p>Regarding mental health and psychosocial support, some individuals arrive with extreme stress, some have panic attacks and need support from psychologists and doctors. In cases where chronic medical issues are identified, people still prefer to move to EU countries than stay in Moldova due to the perception that they can access better services in the EU.</p>	<p>PWG members to submit their projects to the Moldova Refugee Coordination Forum before October 23rd.</p>
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Regarding transportation, recently, due to the low number of arrivals, ACTED and IOM buses are moving less frequently. Because arrivals do not want to wait for so long, they are arranging their own public and private transportation. INTERSOS is encouraging arrivals to use official transportation, rather than public or private means.

The Sector Coordinator referenced UNHCR's cross-border meeting with Ukrainian colleagues in terms of arrivals and recent developments in Ukraine, specifically the increase in missile attacks. According to UNHCR Ukraine colleagues, most people who have planned to leave these regions due to security concerns have already left. However, there is a need to keep an eye on the situation regarding lack of water, electricity, and heating, as these factors could contribute to increased cross-border movements.

Regarding transportation, the Sector Coordinator also inquired as to how long buses wait until they depart. IOM colleagues confirmed that buses are quite big and cannot depart with only a few people; they are there for contingency planning. ACTED responded and informed participants that there are two scheduled departures daily: 14h and 18h, regardless of if they are full. In the event that there is a larger group, they can provide additional buses; it depends on the need.

Referring to those arrivals who had severe anxiety and mental health issues, the coordinator for the MHPSS technical reference group inquired as to whom these individuals are being referred to and whether they can they access specialized or non-specialized support? INTERSOS confirmed that they have psychologists who can provide initial consultations and can provide follow-up and make referrals if needed. It was also confirmed that these individuals can access Moldova community based mental centers for those who are staying in the country. INTERSOS has had initial coordination with these mental health centers, but admission might require some conditions.



<p>Agenda Point 3</p> <p>Update on Ukraine developments (conscription; return of TCNs)</p> <p>Sean Sager sager@unhcr.org</p>	<p>UNHCR provided two updates on developments in Ukraine.</p> <p>The first update was on the military conscription of women in Ukraine. As background, on 21 March 2022, the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine registered an Order of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine with an updated list of specialties and professions for women to be registered in military service. This Order meant that women who worked in these 14 specialties would be obliged to be registered in military service as of 1 October 2022.</p> <p>The Law "On Military Duty and Military Service" stated that women working in these 14 specialties had to register with the military without exceptions (Art. 1 clause 11). Women who had a specialty and/or a profession specified in the list approved by the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine (the 14 specialties in the Order), and who were suitable for military service due to their health and age (18-60), would be included in the military registration of conscripts and could be mobilized at any time.</p> <p>Although the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine stated that women would be registered for military service only with their consent, this was contrary to what was included in the legal framework, as the Law "On Military Duty and Military Service" stated that registration was mandatory for women falling within the 14 specialties.</p> <p>Under the current legislative framework, this would have meant that as of 1 October 2022, women on the military register of conscripts would have had to stay in their place of military registration and would have been restricted from leaving Ukraine, unless falling within one of the exemptions to mobilization into the military.</p>	<p>N/A</p>



A decree has since been signed by the Ukraine Defense Minister pushing this registration back a full year until 1 October 2023. According to the defense minister, this postponement will give the parliament time to establish at the legislative level that registration of women with these profiles is exclusively voluntary.

The **second update** was regarding the expiry of temporary or permanent residence for third country nationals in Ukraine.

On 21 October, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted the resolution "Some issues of implementation of legislation in the field of migration in conditions of martial law", which allows foreigners (TCNs) and stateless persons, except for citizens of the Russian Federation, to enter and legally stay in Ukraine based on a temporary or permanent residence, even if the validity of the residence permit has expired, or which are subject to exchange after 24 February 2022. This provision will be in effect during martial law and within 30 days after its termination or cancellation.

In addition, the resolution established that for the period of martial law, passports of citizens of Ukraine in the form of a card, even if expired, and passports of citizens of Ukraine of the 1994 model, which do not have photo cards pasted upon reaching the age of 25 or 45 (if the deadline for pasting the photo card has come during the period of martial law), are documents certifying identity and confirming Ukrainian citizenship.

The issue of Russian nationals leaving Ukraine to Moldova due to inability to renew their residence permits in Ukraine was discussed. UNHCR Ukraine informed that Russian nationals whose resident permits have expired have been applying for asylum in Ukraine, although the way this is happening in practice appears to be inconsistent. The UNHCR Ukraine team is currently working on collecting more data and will share it when available.



	<p>UNHCR reported that, according to BMA statistics, there has been a small increase in the number of asylum claims by Russian nationals in Moldova, with 20 asylum claims in September as compared to 10 in August. Thus far, there have been no adjudications.</p>	
<p>Agenda Point 4</p> <p>Update on Participatory Assessments</p> <p>Natalia Kropivka, Protection Officer</p> <p>kropivka@unhcr.org</p>	<p>Natalia Kropivka, head of UNHCR’s Community Based Protection Unit (CBP), updated PWG members on the Participatory Assessments exercise which recently concluded. The focus of the PA was to gain information regarding refugee intentions, community cohesion, local integration, access to education, medical assistance, employment and social services. The exercise began on 11 October and concluded on 2 November, with a total number of over 40 focus group discussions conducted.</p> <p>Partners who were trained and actively involved in the facilitation of the FGDs included CDA, CCR, MPP, INTERSOS, National Congress of Ukrainians in Moldova, GENDERDOC-M, Roma-led organizations, Casa Marioarei and others. Special thanks were provided to the Roma led organizations, members of the Coalition Roma Voice and Roma Task Force for their active involvement and interesting findings.</p> <p>The geographical coverage was country-wide, which covered both banks of the river Dniester, both urban and rural areas (Chisinau, Balti, Cahul, Comrat, Causeni, Ungheni, Stefan Voda, Palanca, Glodeni, Tiraspol etc.). They covered refugee accommodation centers, host families and private accommodation.</p> <p>Age and gender diversity was considered in all mixed FGDs, while others focused on only women or men groups, as well as persons with disabilities, persons with serious medical condition, elderly people 65+, Roma refugees, adults, members of the LGBTIQ community, non-Ukrainian refugees and asylum seekers, teenagers and youth, and stateless persons.</p>	<p>N/A</p>



	<p>Next steps will be to follow up on individual and urgent cases identified (simultaneous with the data-collection), with data analysis set to start on 3 November. A presentation on the findings from the report is tentatively scheduled for December.</p>	
<p>Agenda Point 5</p> <p>Update on Temporary Protection</p> <p>Andrew Painter, Senior Protection Officer</p> <p>painter@unhcr.org</p>	<p>The Sector Coordinator provided an update on temporary protection. As many have seen, the government issued a draft decision on TP on 18 October, with 10 working days to provide comments, the deadline of which is today. UNHCR circulated a document where PWG members could add their comments, which will be used as a submission on behalf of the PWG. Members were encouraged to limit their comments to major concerns only. UNHCR plans to submit the consolidated document by the end of the day, with the caveat that the inputs and comments do not reflect the concerns of all PWG members.</p>	<p>PWG members to submit any last-minute comments or concerns to the previously circulated document for submission.</p>
<p>Agenda Point 6</p> <p>Presentation on the UNHCR Regional Bureau Report on six (6) months of implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive</p>	<p>The Sector Coordinator presented findings from the UNHCR Regional Bureau Report on 6 Months of Implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive, a report which covers 26 countries.</p> <p>As of 11 October 2022, over 7.6 million refugees have been recorded across Europe. On 4 March, the EU triggered the application of the TPD and as of 11 October, over 4.2 million refugees registered for TP/similar national protection schemes.</p>	<p>N/A</p>



<p>Andrew Painter, Senior Protection Officer</p> <p>painter@unhcr.org</p>	<p><u>Some promising practices of TP include:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Enhanced registration capacity: network of registration centers, interactive maps• Digitalization: online systems facilitate process, reduce backlogs, enable two-way communication• Documenting identity: generous approaches, recognizing difficulties refugees can have• Issuance of documentation and access to rights: ‘under one roof approach’. <p><i>Main findings include:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1.Rights are interdependent2.Refugees face a range of practical, administrative & legal barriers3.PWSNs faced increased challenges4.Several identified barriers are equally faced by refugees from elsewhere. <p><i>Registration top five barriers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• long queues,• lacks of interpretation services,• difficulty accessing registration point,• refusal of access to registration services,• difficulty accessing information. <p><i>Education's top five barriers:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• lack of space in local school,• language barriers,• lack of permanent address,• lack of information,	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• lack of specific documents required to register with local schools. <p><u>Key recommendations:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Need for increased coherence in TPD application2. Addressing various barriers is critical to ensure inclusion3. Refugees can be part of the solution4. Early and systematic identification of PWSNs needed5. Lessons learned from application of TPD have potential wider relevance.	
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Information collection and relevant links
Moldova operational data portal: https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784
UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe: The Implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive - Six Months On (October 2022) https://reliefweb.int/report/poland/unhcr-regional-bureau-europe-implementation-temporary-protection-directive-six-months-october-2022

If necessary, feel free to add extra rows in the matrix above.