



PROTECTION WORKING GROUP/DISABILITY TASKFORCE (DTF)

Meeting Details		
Date	04.11.2022	
Time	11.00-13.00 am	
Chair	Ludmila Malcoci, Executive Director, Keystone Moldova	
Reporting	Ludmila Ciocan, DTF Secretariat Coordinator, Keystone Moldova	
Email	lmalcoci@khs.org ; lciocan@khs.org ;	
Agenda		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks. Short updates on the DTF activity • Updates from other working groups/taskforces • UN World Food Programme (WFP) - support for the refugees in Moldova • Refugee testimonials - inclusive practices and unmet needs • The Washington Group Short Set on Functioning – identifying persons with disabilities for protection case management – short guidance 		
Information collection and relevant links		
Moldova operational data portal: https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784 https://www.washingtongroup-disability.com/		
Participants		
Offline participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ludmila Malcoci, Keystone Moldova • Ludmila Ciocan, Keystone Moldova • Martina Gastaldello, OHCHR • Daniela Oleinic , WFP • Galina Climov, AOPD • Marina Gagarinova (refugee) • Asea Larina (refugee) • Ina Petrov, Moldova Deaf Association 	Online participation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mariana Tocan, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection • Nicoleta Crivenco, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection • Teodora Zafiu, UNDP • Veaceslav Luca, IM Swedish Development Partner • Valentina Toporet, MOTIVATIE 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tatiana Ghidirimschi, LOW VISION • Dmitri Ceceli, civic activist Transnistrian Region • Emma Matreniuc, VIVERE • Daniela Bordeianu, VOINICEL Center



Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
Opening remarks. Short updates on the DTF activity	<p>Only four NGOs reported on their activities for October. 475 Ukrainian refugees with disabilities and serious diseases were supported: 206 by Keystone; 186 by OSORC from Transnistrian region, 78 by Motivatie and 5 by CASMED. According to data provided by NGOs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 49 Ukrainian refugees with disabilities received information and counselling through Keystone Moldova Hotline Support Service in the reporting period (29 of them were referred to the Mobile Team). At the same time, Keystone Moldova Mobile Team reached 157 refugees with disabilities and serious chronic diseases in host families and refugee accommodation centers.• 150 refugees with disabilities and serious chronic diseases have benefitted from food packages and 6 received special diet products (gluten-free, sugar-free, etc.); 30 families of refugees with disabilities received food vouchers from Keystone Moldova (total value 35.000 lei).• 117 persons received hygiene packages.• 140 refugees with disabilities and serious chronic diseases were covered with medicines by Keystone Moldova (130), OSORC (8) and CASMED (2). By the end of October, 46 refugees benefitted also from medical examinations covered financially by Keystone Moldova (4) and OSORC (42). Medical devices (glucometers, tests, stoma, anti-scarring mattresses) were offered to 10 refugees by Keystone Moldova and assistive devices (walking frames, crutches, wheelchairs, hearing aids, optical correction devices) were provided to other 10 refugees by Keystone Moldova and OSORC.• In case of 170 refugees with disabilities and serious chronic diseases a complex needs assessment was conducted in order to establish the necessary interventions by Keystone Moldova, OSORC and CASMED;• 139 refugees benefitted from information support and were referred to other services;• legal assistance was provided to 41 refugees by OSORC and CASMED;• transport services were offered to 16 refugees with disabilities and adapted transport was offered mainly by Motivatie and OSORC to 26 refugees with disabilities;• 6 refugees were offered accommodation within OSORC office spaces to facilitate the provision of services; 76 refugees with disabilities received psychological counseling	



	<p>from OSORC; Motivatie provided 31 hours of psychological counseling and organized 6 sessions of recreational activities for refugees with disabilities (73 participants);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6 families benefited from duvets including an electric one, pillows, bed linen <p>Many organizations started winterization activities (procurement of goods; pillows; linens) to support refugees with overcoming winter problems. The Task Force tried to identify the concerns for NGOs working on disability issues, one issue in Transnistria region is that the amount of cash is not enough to cover refugees' needs.</p> <p>There is a limited number of housing places for persons with health problems. Rehabilitation services for people who suffered a stroke are not available. Health problems increased after refugees arrived in Moldova. Assistive equipment have prohibitive costs. The DTF is trying to understand how donors can contribute to cover the medication costs at national level. Only access to medical doctors without affordable medicines is not enough.</p>	
<p>Updates from other working groups/ taskforces</p>	<p>Temporary Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The draft Government Decision on Temporary Protection was published for comments, together with the Inter-Institutional Implementation Plan. It is expected that there will be a two-steps registration process: online registration and then in person registration. There should be procedures to identify persons with specific needs as part of registration procedures, and the identification should be matched with up scaled specialized services with adequate capacity at the border. ▪ Identification at early stage is crucial to be able to refer them to services and support in a timely manner, minimizing the protection risks. The absence of identification procedures prevents data collection on the prevalence of people with disabilities, limiting a tailored response (like healthcare; suitable accommodation). ▪ <u>Winterization</u>: as a response to shortage of gas, the government has purchased firewood from Romania and it will transport it to Moldova through road and railway. This will benefit the most vulnerable populations, around 43.000 Moldovan households and 10.000 refugees living outside of the RACs. 	<p>Send the contacts of the organization 'Be An Angel' to the TF members in case they have cases of children in need of evacuation</p> <p>Andreas Tölke, Founder / Director Be an Angel e.V. Germany / Moldova / USA, andreas@be-an-angel.de Mobil +491717858939</p> <p>Share training topics and dates with members of the TF</p>



- RRP process: Project submissions was completed and the inter-agency has noted a 100% increase from the number of organizations who submitted last year. Next step is review of the submissions by the sector lead to ensure that the activities respond to the gaps identified.
- Evacuation flights: The NGO 'Be an Angel' is organizing evacuation flights out for Ukrainians, out of Moldova and to Germany, where they are taken to hospitals and accommodations. The next is on November 7-10. Priority is given to children with disabilities and medical cases. The flights will continue for at least five times and until further notice.
- Inter-agency campaign for the 16 days of activism on violence against women is being prepared.

Upcoming trainings

- The Child Protection sub-Working Group extended the invitation to a **training on reporting on child abuse and neglect**. The training will be facilitated by the National Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse and will take place on Wednesday, November 9 from 10am-12pm. The meeting will be online so people throughout the country can participate, and interpretation will be available. The training will cover topics such as when, why, and how to report cases of child abuse or neglect, as well as time for discussion and questions. It would be great for anyone who works directly with children, or who supervises a team working directly with children, to participate.
- **A workshop on Humanitarian principles** is being organized by the Norwegian Refugee Council. The workshops in Romanian are planned for November 9, November 10 and November 25, 2022, and for the workshop on November 24, 2022, translation into Russian will be provided. Link for registration and deadline here.
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdKgzLrM4eANJkSGSsa_pJxImP7XlsHgDEp3T0ka0F4NO_U3w/viewform
- A **community engagement and accountability training** is being organized by the CDAC Network (Communicating with disaster-affected communities) and supported by the Accountability Task Force. It will take place on November 22. Deadline for registration is



	<p>November 11. Priority will be given to local organizations and people with no previous experience in the field.</p> <p>https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=gXnD5WRmNEGKDGVD0q-AvkgG8xpg_mhOhNoxBub_dLIUQTIEQTIJWDZOV0U3OFhOSk9PRDY3Sk1SNy4u</p>	
Update from the Alliance of NGOs on disability field	<p>The Alliance put in place a mechanism to monitor the support offered to refugees with disabilities from Ukraine (how many needs were covered; and what type of needs). This is important as the DTF does not only coordinate activities, but also advocates with government and donors in increasing the support to refugees.</p>	
WFP - support for the refugees in Moldova	<p>Introduction of the WFP in Moldova</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operations started in March 2022 upon request from the Government of Moldova.• Most recent UN Agency in the country. <p>Activities in Moldova:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financial assistance for Moldovan hosting refugees: from March to now, three tranches of financial assistance were disbursed. Each round lasts 2 months (registration; checking technical aspects; time of the transfers). The fourth round is ongoing and will end in January 2023. Moldovan who are hosting refugees for at least a week receive cash, and the amount depends on family size. Hosts need to register online; they receive a code that will be given to the hosted refugees that need to register on the same website.• Food support at RACs. Hot meals were delivered. Only 47 are covered by WFP with its partners.• Contingency plan in case of an increased flow of refugees in the country• Emergency financial support programme for vulnerable population• Support to social canteens <p>WFP only supports RAC that are registered by the National Agency for Social Assistance; request comes through RAC Coordinator; WFP identifies the partners who offer assistance. They are in contact with potential RACs that need to be accredited. Special nutritional needs need to be taken into account.</p>	



	<p>A new project will be implemented jointly with Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. Families will receive 700 lei for 6-months, during winter, to consider the rise in prices of utilities, to improve social protection.</p> <p>They do not have activities in Transnistrian region. For more information on the WFP in Moldova – please consult the attached power point presentation.</p>	
Testimonials of refugees	<p>The first testimonial is from a refugee woman who arrived to Moldova with her family at the beginning of March. She has a child with a disability and taking care of her child is a full-time occupation for her, her husband and her parents. Her son used to receive medicine free of charge in Mikolaiv. The main need is a wheelchair because the child is 14 and he is too old to fit in his actual wheelchair. It would be good to have a permanent mechanism to ensure that persons with disabilities have access to medication through the insurance company.</p> <p>The second testimonial is from a refugee from Odessa, who has a 10 years old son. She has digestion problems, and has lost 10 kg. In many occasions she had to address hospitals and doctors and it was free of charge. Only medicines were very expensive and practically all her earnings from paid activities here in Moldova were used for buying medicines. They were supported by an organization.</p>	
The Washington Group Short Set on Functioning – identifying persons with disabilities for protection case management – short guidance	<p>This presentation comes in response to UNHCR planning process for RRP 2023 and tackle the capacity of organizations to identify persons with disabilities.</p> <p>The problem to be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of information and knowledge about available or appropriate tools to collect disability data in humanitarian actions (binary 'yes/no' questions, such as “do you have a disability or medical condition” lead to underreporting);• Lack of data on the number of persons with disabilities that are affected by the refugee crisis;• Many actors involved in refugee response are not equipped to identify and address the needs of persons with disabilities, or design and implement inclusive projects. <p>There is a simple tool developed by the Washington Group that can be used, with questions that refer to the functioning of a person. In the framework of data collection exercise at national level,</p>	



	<p>this set of question can be added to the surveys. In the context of refugee crisis, these questions are meant to identify which refugees are at risk of exclusion and have obstacles in participating. The purpose of these questions is to understand the share of persons with disabilities when drafting projects and planning interventions. When we monitor and evaluate, it is important to know whether persons with disabilities have access to assistance, programmes and services, and report on indicators that need to be disaggregated by disability criteria. The most basic tool developed by the Washington group is a survey for adults – short set of questions. It targets 6 functions to determine whether the person has certain difficulty in performing tasks: seeing; hearing; walking; learning; self-care and communication. The questions are simple and the answers are scored based on levels 1-4, from no difficulty (1) to cannot do at all (4). The data analysis allows determining the number of persons with and without disabilities.</p>	
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