

REGIONAL NETWORK FOR SAFEGUARDING AND PSEA IN THE UKRAINE REFUGEE RESPONSE

Summary note – 14 February 2023

1. Welcome and introductions

The co-chairs of the network, Rawan Abukhadra and Caroline Dulin Brass, introduced themselves and the new members of the network, who were from IFRC, Clear Global, and World Vision.

2. Adoption of the Network's Terms of Reference

The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Regional Network were adopted. No comments were received since the TOR were presented at the last network meeting and circulated to all network members. The TOR will be reviewed before 30th of June 2023 and every six months thereafter, and will be uploaded on the Regional Network webpage here: [Working Group: Regional PSEA and Safeguarding Network - Ukraine Refugee Situation \(unhcr.org\)](#)

3. Presentation and discussion on the Network's Plan of Action

The co-chairs presented the draft Plan of Action for the Regional Network for the coming six months (from February to August 2023), which was put together based on the regional survey and the working group discussions that were held with network members on 13 January 2023.

The Plan of Action covers three key objectives and 14 key actions, with the overall aim to:

- i) **Contextualized training and capacity building** material is made available to National PSEA Networks for use and dissemination to humanitarian actors involved in the response;
- ii) **Targeted awareness raising messages** on safeguarding and PSEA for the Ukraine refugee response are made available for use, including messages that are adapted to children, persons with disabilities, and persons from the Roma community; and
- iii) National PSEA Networks and practitioners are provided the **space to exchange, share and document best practices** from the Ukraine refugee response, ensuring learning and evidence-based advocacy.

The action points were reviewed, discussed, and agreed upon, with the co-chairs seeking to identify 1-2 agencies or organisations to take the lead on each action point. The lead agency/organization is expected to ensure that the action point moves forward and is completed in a timely manner, but not necessarily to provide dedicated funding for the activity (funding will be pooled between network members, with some support from UNHCR if needed). Bilateral calls will take place on each action point before the next Network Meeting to agree on the way forward, supported by the co-chairs.

In terms of feedback and comments, members highlighted:

- i) **On capacity building and training**, *IOM* mentioned the case study/video from Ukraine ("Flora") and whether this could be used as a starting point rather than developing another video. *Clear Global* noted availability to support with subtitles and translations (including Ukrainian sign language) if funding is made available. The *Romania PSEA Network* can possibly support the consultation with refugee communities. *RSH* is taking the lead on "tip sheets" on inclusion of persons with disabilities and Roma communities in safeguarding activities but is looking for contacts in Poland and/or regional level in relation to awareness raising in the Roma community. A separate learning corner on learning/training techniques was proposed.

- ii) **On awareness raising**, the PSEA Network Moldova is developing material for children and Roma communities and proposed to link up with UNICEF and Intersos who is taking the lead in country on this (tbc). *Plan International, IOM and Clear Global* expressed an interest in contributing to the child friendly messages.

- iii) On **sharing and documenting best practices and evidence-based advocacy**, there was agreement on organizing four learning corners; (i) tools and practices on engagement and advocacy with host governments; (ii) tools and practices for SEA investigations; (iii) tools and practices on SEA Risk Assessments; and (iv) experiences and practices on PSEA training methodology. Clear Global informed that they have an existing activity on language training and training for interpreters on sensitive topics. It was also noted that there is a need for SEA risk assessments at technical/sectorial level (cash, transportation, accommodation etc.) and that EU GDPR questions are also coming up in connection with data collection and engagement with refugees through social media. UNHCR is seeking a legal analysis on the EU GDPR and the Misconduct Disclosure Scheme, and the Network in Moldova is doing a separate legal analysis for the Moldovan (non-EU) context. There was an interest in having a behavior analysis on barriers to reporting or disclosure, potentially jointly with GBV, but no organization or agency was willing to take it forward at this point (to be discussed further). It was proposed to build on the recent information and communications study in Moldova and the [study](#) and [toolkit](#) on barriers to disclosure that UNHCR led in Latin America. Clear Global also noted that they did some work in the DRC that could be relevant (mainly focused on communications).

The co-chairs will re-circulate an updated Action Plan and initiate bilateral calls with the organisations/agencies leading on each activity before the next Network Meeting.

Network members who wish to express an interest in contributing to and/or leading on additional action items were kindly asked to inform the co-chairs as soon as possible.

4. AOB and closing

In line with the survey feedback, meetings of the Regional Network will be held on a monthly basis. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 15 March 2023.

RSH will present the main recommendations of the [regional evidence review](#). The co-chairs will also assess the feasibility of kicking off the first learning corner at this time.

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