



PROTECTION WORKING GROUP/DISABILITY TASKFORCE (DTF)

Meeting Details	
Date	21.10.2022
Time	11.00-12.00 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• Refugee Response Plan 2023 (RRP 2023) – practical guidance for project submission• AOB	
Information collection and relevant links	
Moldova operational data portal: https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784	
Participants	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ludmila Malcoci, Keystone Moldova• Ludmila Ciocan, Keystone Moldova• Tatiana Cernomorit, OHCHR• Martina Gastaldello, OHCHR• Catalina Birsanu, UNHCR• Tamara Ropot, UNHCR• Veaceslav Luca, IM Swedish Development Partner• Anatol Donu, CCR• Galina Climov, AOPD• Anisoara Spinu, CASMED• Natalia Postolachi, CASMED• Aliona Dumitras, SOS Autism• Irina Stoianov, SOS Autism• Corina Gribincea, Keystone Moldova• Jeorjeta Scopenco, AO PRIMA• Tatiana Ghidirmschi, LOW VISION• Valentina Toporet, MOTIVATIE• Adela Goncear, CDPD• Nika, Societatea Invalizilor din Moldova	



Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
Opening remarks. Short updates on the DTF activity	<p>The Chair requests partners' support in indicating their needs and resources for winterization.</p> <p>In addition, the Chair reminds the importance of organizations that support persons with disabilities to participate in the Refugee Response Plan 2023 project submission, for visibility so that UNHCR and other donors are aware of the requirements and the gaps to support this group of people. The DTF received monthly reports from Keystone Moldova, Motivatie, CASMED and OSORC from the Transnistrian region. SOS Autism did not report this month.</p> <p>During the last month four NGOs supported 485 Ukrainian refugees with disabilities and serious chronic diseases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 86 Ukrainian refugees with disabilities received information and counselling through Keystone Moldova Hotline Support Service; Keystone Moldova Mobile Team reached 210 refugees with disabilities and serious chronic diseases in host families and refugee accommodation centers. Compared to August, the number of refugees assisted by Keystone Moldova Hotline and Mobile Team increased by 50%.• 167 refugees have benefitted from food packages and other 11 refugees received special diet products (gluten-free, sugar-free, etc.)• 52 refugees have received hygiene packages• 204 refugees with disabilities and serious chronic diseases were covered with medicines by Keystone Moldova and OSORC. The procurement of medicines by refugees continue to be one of the biggest problems. Many of them have been in Moldova for several months. Cash support, even when received, is not enough to cover their needs for medicines. By the end of September, 67 refugees benefitted also from medical examinations covered financially by Keystone Moldova and OSORC. The problem is that access to specialist service is expensive.	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medical devices (glucometers, tests, stoma, anti-scarring mattresses) were offered to 18 refugees and assistive devices (walking frames, crutches, wheelchairs, hearing aids, optical correction devices) were provided to 45 refugees by Keystone Moldova and OSORC.• In case of 277 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;• 107 refugees benefited from information support and were referred to other services;• Legal assistance was provided to 35 refugees by OSORC and CASMED;• Transport services were offered to 34 refugees with disabilities and adapted transport was offered mainly by Motivatie and OSORC to 10 refugees with disabilities;• 30 refugees with disabilities were supported by NGOs to identify an accommodation facility (house/apartment) and other 41 refugees were offered accommodation within OSORC office spaces to facilitate the provision of services;• 81 refugees with disabilities received psychological counseling;• A new shelter for children with autism was opened and accredited, and is being managed by SOS Autism. <p>Remain challenges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rehabilitation services are very expensive; around 700.000 MLD per month.• Poverty of persons with disabilities and chronic diseases with unlimited access to medicines;• Lack of financial resources by NGO whose interventions are project-based.• Support related to winterization.• Support with heating equipment.	
Updates from other working groups/ taskforces	Temporary Protection The Temporary Protection (TP) draft was released Tuesday evening, 18 October, for public comments. The deadline for public comments is 2 November 2022. The Protection WG has	



	<p>circulated the Romanian version and a draft English version and requested inputs 5:00pm on Thursday, October 27. Comments will be compiled using a word document.</p> <p>Please note that the government has requested that, in providing comments on the draft TP decision, that commentators bear in mind that the TP decision cannot contradict existing legislation, in particular the Law on Asylum in the Republic of Moldova. Please refrain, therefore, to the extent possible, from proposing changes to the draft decision that would be in conflict with, or inconsistent with, existing legislation.</p> <p>There is no specific mention to persons with disabilities in the directive; the section related to financial resources detail the budget needed for: access to accommodation; access to the labour market; access to social assistance; access to medical assistance. However the budget should consider the special measures needed for persons with disabilities.</p> <p><u>Awareness-raising on temporary protection</u></p> <p>Awareness-raising is going to be key – the Accountability Task Force is working with BMA on a joint communication strategy. Coordinated efforts are needed for a successful campaign, and every partner in the territory is needed. The main communication channel will be BMA green line and refugee response green line. It is important to wait for official messages before informing refugees.</p> <p>It is expected that some persons will need assistance with the registration, in particular in case documents must be uploaded.</p> <p>Education</p> <p>The Ministry of Education and Research presented, at the Education WG, the government’s plans for 2023 in the education sector. The plan takes into account specific supports needed for children with disabilities.</p> <p>National Objective 4 states: Ensuring access to education for refugee children with disabilities through access to information, assistive equipment, inclusive school environments and educational support services. Associated costs are required: Provision of assistive equipment, provision of educational support services.</p> <p>Consultation done as part of the planning process of 2023 Refugee Response Framework</p> <p><u>Local consultations held in October in 9 cities of Moldova</u></p> <p>Specific findings on persons with disabilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited availability of specialized services, including for children. Need to improve access to assistive technologies for PWD and older persons.	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility remains an issue across several sector, for example Accommodation and Transportation. Adjustments are needed to ensure that PWD are not disadvantaged or marginalized. The situation affects the well-being of individuals, including mental health, and leads to isolation. • Heavy burden on caregivers, mostly women. • Many services for persons with disabilities that were available at the onset of the crisis are now closed. <p><u>Consultation with women organizations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40 participants from all across regions, representing women rights and women-led organizations involved in the refugee response. • Partners should pay increased attention to the disaggregation by disability because this group of persons remains less visible. • Issues related to health – unavailability of drugs for chronic diseases and assistive equipment for persons with disabilities. • It is important to intensify collaboration with grassroots CSOs and local public administration. • Refugees often lack information on the services available to them, they do not know how and where they can have access to services 	
<p>RRP 2023</p>	<p>The Excel document to submit projects for RRP 2023 was illustrated and explained by the UNHCR representative. Deadline for project submission is Sunday 23 October COB. The local NGOs requested and received the short and simplified version in Romanian for project submissions.</p>	<p>Partners to submit projects for RRP 2023 by Sunday 23 October COB.</p>
<p>AOB</p>	<p>The DTF Chair participated in an International Conference, organized by the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities on quality of life and services for people with disabilities. It was an opportunity to exchange with colleagues from other countries and discuss the situation of refugees.</p> <p><u>Discussion on Placement center of SOS Autism, with the center Manager</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initially UN partners were providing support to this center, then GIZ and eventually ADRA. After that, support was discontinued and currently they are self-reliant. • The center was accredited as RAC on 8 September. • At the moment there are 30 people, but they have the capacity for 35. 	<p>Continue engaging with the Food Security Working Group to find an appropriate and timely solution for food provision for SOS Autism RAC</p>



- They were told that they needed to submit a request to the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection to cover utilities costs and salaries. They have submitted the paperwork.
- As for food, they were told by Help Age (WFP partner) that they can get catered food or vouchers to cook; since there are children with food intolerances, allergies, epilepsy who require specific diets, they prefer the vouchers. At the moment, however, their kitchen does not comply with the standards, which require having 3 separate rooms: one for cooking; one for eating; one for storing. In order to make space for the 3 separate rooms, they would have to close 2 therapy rooms and turn one of them into a kitchen.
- They need a lot of toys, which need to be specific as they use toy-therapy.
- They need tables/chairs.
- They need electric heating devices.

Partners were encouraged to think about possible organizations that can support temporarily the center. Meals for Hope and World Central Kitchen were mentioned as potential donors/partners.