



TASK FORCE ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TFTP)

Meeting Details			
Date	12/12/2022		
Time	15:00-17:00		
Co-chairs	State Chancellery, IOM, UNHCR		
Reporting	UNHCR		
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Agenda			
<i>Meeting agenda</i>			
Welcome remarks			
1. Presentation of the conclusions and recommendations of the Evaluation of the National Strategy to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Human Beings of the Republic of Moldova for 2018-2023.			
2. Presentation of the main findings and recommendations of the Report on the Mapping study on available services for refugees from Ukraine. Identifying the risks of exploitation and human trafficking.			
3. The role of the social worker as part of a rescue mission, and how they can contribute.			
4. Update on the recent developments and activities on Countering Trafficking in Persons			
5. AoB and wrap-up			
Information collection and relevant links			
Final Evaluation Report on Evaluation of Strategy on THB_Eng.docx			
Raport Cart-rea serviciilor_Fin_30.11.22_pentru_machetare_Ro.docx			
Participants			
Diana Doros , <i>Head of Human Rights and Cooperation with Civil Society Department, State Chancellery</i>	Tanita Cotarcea , <i>Protection Consultant, IOM</i>	Martina Bogdeva , <i>Anti-Trafficking Specialist, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (“UNHCR”)</i>	Tatiana Fomina , <i>Public Policy Analyst, I.C. “La Strada”</i>



Natalia Nicula , <i>United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, National Programme Officer TiP</i>	Nadejda Radu , <i>Head of the Service for Assistance to Male Victims of Trafficking</i>	Vasile Harea , <i>Head of the Centre for Combatting Trafficking in Persons (“CCTP”)</i>	Svetlana Albina , <i>Officer, UN Women Moldova</i>
Andreas Toelke , <i>Chairman, Be an Angel</i>	Hermann Meingast , <i>Operational Manager Moldova, Be an Angel</i>	Flavius Onofrei , <i>Deputy Head of EUBAM Office in Moldova</i>	Vanessa Bordin , <i>GBV Officer, UNHCR</i>
Jose Antonio Mancera Rivera , <i>Interim Moldova Country Lead, Oxfam</i>	Hanna Antonova , <i>Expert on THB</i>	Tetiana Rudenko , <i>Senior Coordination Adviser, OSCE</i>	Natalia Rusnac , <i>General Directorate of Social Assistance, Family and Child Protection in Falesti, Head of Community Social Assistance Service</i>
Petru Lupu , <i>GBV Senior Assistant, UNHCR</i>	Hanna Ursol , <i>Protection Associate, UNHCR</i>	Tatiana Arusoi , <i>Executive Assistant, Hope 4</i>	Valeriu Berlinschi , <i>Senior Consultant, Human Rights and Cooperation with Civil Society Department, State Chancellery</i>
Diana Comerzan , <i>IOM Consultant for Human Rights and Cooperation with Civil Society Department, State Chancellery</i>	Viorel Ciobanu , <i>Prosecutor, Interim Head of Combating Trafficking in Human Beings Section, General Prosecutor’s Office</i>	Vitalie Bînzari , <i>Inspector, Labour State Inspectorate</i>	Diana Salcuțan , <i>General Inspectorate of Border Police (GIBP)</i>
Andrei Gaidău , <i>GIBP</i>	Evelina Miron , <i>Ministry of Labour and Social Protection</i>	Oxana Grău , <i>Public Service Agency</i>	Natalia Lefter , <i>Single Crisis Management Centre</i>



Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
Agenda Point 1	<p>Welcome remarks. The State Chancellery's representative together with UNHCR and IOM representatives welcomed the participants of the fifth Task Force meeting and presented the agenda of the meeting.</p> <p>Martina Bogdeva, UNHCR, greeted the participants, appreciating the format of the meeting - in person.</p> <p>Tanita Cotarcea, IOM, highlighted continuation of supporting efforts of both the government and investigative and prosecution bodies and all the actors involved in the fight against human trafficking, especially implementing activities and better preparation for a crime victim referral mechanism. IOM emphasized continuing work with colleagues from the Prosecutor's Office for Combating Organized Crime and Special Cases to better coordinate investigative and prosecution activities, victim interactions in a victim-and trauma-informed manner and work on developing new projects, responding to the needs on the ground identified by partners. The current working group was the first one established at the European level, dedicated to coordination between public and private entities fighting human trafficking following the refugee crisis, and still was one of the most active and fruitful. IOM wished the participants success with regard to the 2023 Action Plan's implementation.</p> <p>Diana Doros, State Chancellery, expressed gratitude to Hanna Antonova for preparing a comprehensive report on Evaluation of the National Strategy to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Human Beings of the Republic of Moldova for 2018-2023, which was a very complex analysis, made with the support of colleagues from the International Centre La Strada. The report was already translated to Romanian and would be disseminated to participants. It defined well the situation in the Republic of Moldova, and it was needed</p>	



	<p>to discuss and examine together with the Anti-Trafficking Community provided recommendations, as well as the steps to follow and actions for the future.</p> <p>Hanna Antonova, expert on THB, presented the conclusions and recommendations of the Evaluation of the National Strategy to Prevent and Combat Trafficking in Human Beings of the Republic of Moldova for 2018-2023.</p> <p>The Strategy and National Action Plans have constituted a significant improvement over the previous policy documents in the counter-trafficking sphere. It was quite comprehensive and in line with 4P approach covering protection, prevention, prosecution and partnership areas. At the same time, the Strategy covered a broad scope of issues within a very short period of time and having limited resources. The majority of outputs were achieved, in particular important amendments in the legislation, establishment of the specialized service for male victims of trafficking, counter trafficking campaigns, etc. At the same time, there was a slow transition from the old system ‘National Referral Systems’ to the new one ‘National Referral Mechanism for Victims of Crime’ but herewith the difficult context (pandemic, administrative reforms, staff turnover, lack of budget and insufficient time scale) should be taken into consideration.</p> <p>The recommendations, among others, included keeping the progress made previously; defining the priorities in the new document; maintaining the level of stakeholder engagement; reducing the scope of issues; better integrating gender, minority rights, and disability inclusion in the new document. It was also important to preserve strong leadership, operational coordination and monitoring; build capacities at local level (multi-disciplinary teams); strengthen the prevention and prosecution response to THB including countering online recruitment and exploitation.</p>	
Agenda Point 2	<p>Tatiana Fomina, I.C. “La Strada”, presented the main objectives of the ‘Mapping study on available services for refugees from Ukraine. Identifying the risks of exploitation and human trafficking’, in particular: defining available services for displaced persons from Ukraine; assessing vulnerability to trafficking and exploitation among displaced persons</p>	



from Ukraine; analysing the situation and identifying existing gaps in the protection of displaced persons.

The main recommendations were the following: strengthening coordination and more systemic approach regarding assistance to refugees; the need to grant a legal status to refugees, including TCNs and persons with the Moldovan citizenship fleeing the war zone in Ukraine; monitoring the situation; increase of number of social workers; arranging more often coordination meetings, including at the local level; having more clear mechanism and status for foreigners – victims of trafficking in human beings (THB); adaptation of the existing referral mechanism for foreigners; developing an educational module on indicators of THB for workers in the social assistance and humanitarian sphere and providing training on other relevant topics based on needs; using the professional training platform for specialists in the field; learning experience of other countries regarding transportation of children born by surrogate mothers; studying good practices of other countries in overcoming the refugee crisis; continuation of information campaigns on THB risks; activities on raising awareness on THB in educational institutions on the local level, both in person and online; Ukrainian speaking operators at the hotlines; support for the employment of refugees; supporting people working with refugees; development of cooperation and involvement of local structures dealing with employment; cooperation with other countries, etc.

Diana Salcutan, GIBP, mentioned that there were 7 cases of crossing the state border with children from surrogate mothers and support was provided by the Ukrainian Embassy.

Regarding the report recommendations, MDBP asked to make a few clarifications, in particular concerning lack of interoperability between the information systems of the Border Police and Bureau of Migration and Asylum.

Tatiana Fomina, I.C. “La Strada”, expressed readiness to have separate discussions on the topics in question and if there some inconsistencies, the corrections could be made.



Hanna Ursol, UNHCR, saluted hiring a Ukrainian-speaking operator for the I.C. “La Strada” hotline and highlighted the progress in Moldova as regards available support in different languages for easy access to them for the Ukrainian refugees compared to other countries where language barriers and absence of Ukrainian, Russian or even English-speaking operators was still an issue.

The concern was shared regarding absence of control in the unauthorized collective centres for refugees and possible manipulation an abuse.

Vasile Harea, CCTP, mentioned that it was necessary to stimulate refugees’ employment. No services should be provided if a person was involved in some criminal activity.

Martina Bogdeva, UNHCR, mentioned about plans to introduce a Services Advisor tool for the Refugee Response in Moldova - a free web-based platform to share information on available services through an interactive map and an online directory. It had an embedded feedback mechanism concerning the accuracy of the information, to ensure the platform was up to date. Services Advisor would also contribute to aligning the Response’s referral pathways, as it included general contact information, as well as specific focal points per service/topic.

Ministries, governmental institutions, international and national organizations would have one focal point per organization to place and edit information on this platform. The focal point contact to be sent to Monica Vazquez (vazquezm@unhcr.org).

The tool was expected to be open for edits in January.

It was also mentioned that it could be useful for the territorial commissions on THB to participate in the refugee coordination meetings, arranged once a month and chaired by the local authorities’ representatives, to mainstream THB issues and concerns. The discussed topics at the meetings were of a general nature, but topics related to risks and prevention of THB could be brought up for discussion. There were also arranged meetings on employment opportunities, where prevention of labour exploitation could be discussed.

Services Advisor tool will be available in January. The agencies focal point’s contact to be sent to vazquezm@unhcr.org



	<p>The refugees' coordination meetings currently were taking place in 6 major cities: Balti, Otaci, Ungheni, Palanca, Cahul and Comrat.</p> <p>If there was an interest, contacts of the coordinators of the Territorial commissions on THB could be added to the distribution list for future meetings.</p>	
Agenda Point 3	<p>Natalia Rusnac, General Directorate of Social Assistance, Family and Child Protection in Falesti, made the presentation about the role of the social worker as part of a rescue mission. At the first stage it was important to identify refugees' needs. The basic tool was the initial assessment. Refugees were also provided with the information about available services and how to get them. At the local level, there were also organized activities for refugees' better integration. Thanks to the support received from the government and NGOs, there was available a wide range of services and support needed for the cold season. Transparency about financing was important and financial reports were provided. Regarding the multidisciplinary teams, a turnover of staff was mentioned. Social workers were exhausted. It was important to detect such cases and perform post monitoring. It was necessary to act properly and focus on human resources. It would be also great to exchange good practices to learn how problems were solved at different levels.</p> <p>Diana Doros, State Chancellery, mentioned that there was a practice of experience sharing in place.</p> <p>Nadejda Radu, Service for Assistance to Male Victims of Trafficking, informed that there were functioning the Centre for Assistance and Protection of Victims of Human Trafficking and Service for Assistance to Male Victims of Human Trafficking, in which psychological, legal and medical assistance was provided in collaboration with other relevant authorities. She also informed about training sessions planned for next year within the framework of the national reference mechanism with important issues concerning security of beneficiaries and social workers.</p> <p>She expressed gratitude to I.C. "La Strada" team for the analysis made.</p>	
Agenda Point 4	AoB and wrap-up	



Diana Doros, State Chancellery, mentioned that the report on implementation of GRETA recommendations was finalized and sent through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration to the Committee of the Parties of the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings.

Flavius Onofrei, EUBAM, provided an advice that it would be great to have a synergy of activities with the Ministry of Internal Affairs' platform on security of border management.