

## Ukraine Situation: Regional Protection Working Group Task Force on Trafficking in Persons

### Terms of Reference

#### I. Background

In line with the Refugee Response Plan to the Ukraine Situation, a Regional Protection WG, chaired by UNHCR, and composed of UN and other international organizations and other stakeholders involved in the response, ensures efficient situational information management and supports country efforts in close collaboration and consultation with relevant government counterparts. Furthermore, at the regional level, thematic groups/task forces have been established to address critical issues (e.g. child protection, gender-based violence, protection from sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian workers etc.), with the aim of maximizing the effectiveness of responses and avoiding gaps and duplication. It is widely acknowledged that Trafficking in Persons (TiP) poses significant protection risks in the Ukraine situation. Establishment of a Task Force on TiP, operating under the Regional Protection Working Group, is proposed to support coordinated action to address these risks and ensure respect for victims' rights.

#### II. Objectives of the Task Force (TF) on TiP

- a. To facilitate the **compilation and sharing within the TF of situational information and evidence** on risks of trafficking among the refugee population, based on protection monitoring. Such information may be and shared with other partners for the purpose of informing and supporting government-led efforts to combat TiP and ensure respect for the rights of survivors/victims and people at risk, at regional and country level.
- b. To **support effective and coordinated action** of partners involved in anti-trafficking responses at country and regional level, in support of hosting countries' efforts. This may include, among other things, work among TF participants on coordinated gaps and needs assessments, joint advocacy, coordinated and/or joint awareness-raising, capacity building, technical assistance and operational responses.
- c. To **provide practical recommendations and advice at the operational level** to inform responses to identify, prevent, address and respond to risks and incidents of TiP, with a focus on ensuring respect for the rights of survivors and people at risk.

#### III. Main tasks and responsibilities

The participants will be jointly responsible and accountable for achieving the objectives of the Task Force. Each participant will seek to share relevant information in a timely fashion and contribute actively to the collective work of the Task Force, bringing to its attention areas of need, opportunities and other developments that could strengthen the effectiveness and coordinated nature of action to address TiP and related risks.

Working in close coordination with other participants, main tasks of the co-chairs include:

- Preparing Task Force meeting agenda, chairing meetings and ensuring secretariat support
- Ensuring ongoing information sharing and encouraging active participation of all Task Force members

- Monitoring responses to address TiP-related issues and leading on the drafting of situational and data updates and ensuring their timely dissemination
- Regularly liaising with and informing the Regional Protection Working Group
- Representing the Task Force in its interaction with external responders, together with other TF participants as relevant.

The Co-Chairs are responsible for convening the Task Force meetings, monitoring the implementation of its objectives and tasks, and for reporting to the Regional Protection Working Group on progress and achievements. Furthermore, the Co-Chairs will will strive to ensure coordination with other existing initiatives, including the upcoming ICAT Policy Support Group.

**IV. Meeting schedule:** In its initial phase of work, the TF meets fortnightly. In case of urgent matters, additional meetings may be convened by the co-chairs or upon request from a TF member.

**V. Co-chairing**

The Task Force will operate under the direction of two Co-Chairs, i.e. IOM and UNODC, with the active involvement of UNHCR.

**VI. Membership**

The TF will comprise agencies with expertise and/or operational capacity involved in the response. It will be open to UN System Organisations, regional organizations, and NGO networks working on TiP issues. Flexible options for participation will be provided, such as regular attendance and contribution, ad-hoc participation to contribute expertise or knowledge, debriefing opportunities.