

Terms of Reference (TOR)

Child Protection Sub-Working Group

Background

At the beginning of 2023, 34.000 refugees from Ukraine applied for Temporary protection in Hungary, with the majority of the refugees are women and children, with estimates indicating that children make up 50% applicants. Additionally, there are an unknown number of Ukrainians in Hungary on other forms of residence permits. There are also unaccompanied children of other nationalities in refugee-like situations entering into Hungary.

Children from Ukraine and other war affected countries have experienced the brunt of the conflict, witnessing and hearing explosions, shootings, and separation from one or more of their parents, leaving emotional scars, family members caring for these children are themselves highly distressed, significantly affecting their ability to provide affection and support as they would before the commencement of conflict. Accompanied and unaccompanied or separated children required structured activities to help them overcome the emotional distress to be enabled children and families to enjoy their rights in Hungary. It is of utmost importance to ensure that refugee children are integrated into existing services by the national Child Protection systems.

Recognizing that the Government of Hungary bears the primary responsibility for the protection of children on its territory and is leading on the reception of refugees arriving at the border areas with Ukraine from the beginning of this crisis, the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2023 aims to support a comprehensive response to protect and assist refugees. UNHCR leads and coordinates the implementation of the RRP in line with the [Refugee Coordination Model \(RCM\)](#) and in close collaboration and consultation with relevant government counterparts, and with the support of inter-agency partners and other stakeholders.

Guiding principles

The coordinating agencies and members of the CP SWG commit to upholding and promoting the core principles and outlined in the Convention on the Rights of the Child and related policies and standards¹

- ✓ State responsibility
- ✓ System strengthening
- ✓ Do No Harm
- ✓ Family and community-based approach
- ✓ Principles of Partnership²
- ✓ Rights-based approach
- ✓ Urgency
- ✓ The Best Interests of the child
- ✓ Non-discrimination
- ✓ Child participation
- ✓ Age, gender and diversity
- ✓ Zero-tolerance to sexual abuse and exploitation
- ✓ Accountability

Objectives

The Child Protection Sub-Working Group reports to the Refugee Protection Working Group and supports the coordination efforts at national level. Its main aim is to ensure that refugee children in Hungary exercise their

¹ The [Protection Principle](#), the Framework for the Protection of Children and the CPMS

² <https://www.icvnetwork.org/resources/principles-partnership>

rights without discrimination, are protected from violence, abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and attain solutions that are in their best interests.

The Child Protection Sub-Working Group is established to:

- ✓ Ensure that refugee child protection prevention and response activities are **well-coordinated**,
- ✓ Support national systems and capacities and **promote inclusion of asylum-seeker and refugee children** into national systems
- ✓ Ensure refugee children and youth and other displaced learners have **access to education** at primary, secondary and higher education level through **inclusion, as soon as possible, in the national education system**
- ✓ **Promote** and **enhance** local and community-led initiatives that empower children, family, community and society and strengthen their capacities to protect children.
- ✓ Enable the **participation** of refugee children, families and host communities in age, gender and diversity sensitive manner that ensures their engagement in the design of appropriate, accessible and inclusive responses
- ✓ **Collaborate** with the Refugee Protection Working Group and sector working groups **to mainstream** child protection into their planning process and response and **advocate** for centrality of children and their protection needs with other sectors ³
- ✓ **Ensure that feedback and complaints mechanisms** are appropriate, accessible, and safe for children
- ✓ **Enhance** the technical capacity of child protection actors involved in the response.

Governance, membership and structure

The CP SWG is co-lead by UNHCR and UNICEF.

The CP SWG meets every third Thursday of a months. The CP SWG chair and co-chairs may call for ad hoc meetings should it be necessary. Each meeting will be called by UNHCR and UNICEF, with one organization responsible for taking the minutes and following up on actions, on a rotational basis.

The CP SWG is a platform where members will notably:

- **Share information** on child protection programmatic responses. This will notably address but not be limited to issues affecting unaccompanied and separated children, children at risk of exploitation and abuse, survivors of human trafficking, etc.
- Facilitate inter-organizational collaboration.
- Maintain and disseminate a **mapping of child protection actors** and their programmatic and geographic reach to eliminate duplication and identify gaps; and develop a work plan.
- Maintain an overview of the child protection situation as well as issues that require attention at national level in Hungary.
- Contribute to the inclusion of child protection aspects in rapid and longer-term programming including education, by ensuring the complementary assessments, plans, tools and evaluations.
- **Assess the learning needs** of child protection actors. Promote and support training and capacity building activities among partners.
- Document and disseminate **good practices** in child protection.

³ [The Alliance Strategy \(2021-2025\) | A Clarion Call: The Centrality of Children and their protection within Humanitarian Action](#)

Chair and co-chairs' responsibilities shall notably entail

- Representing the Child Protection Sub-Working Group in protection planning and strategic meetings, and other in-country platforms, as appropriate.
- Contributing to the effective implementation of the government child protection response and addressing identified gaps, as needs be.
- Advocating and mobilizing resources on behalf of the CP Sub-Working Group and in collaboration with other sectors, as needs be.

Membership and responsibilities

Membership is open to governmental institutions, local, national, regional and international non-governmental organizations, civil society and faith-based organizations, UN agencies, networks, partnerships, academia and other institutions, working in Hungary.

Membership criteria:

- Implementation of child protection activities and/or active engagement at local, regional or national level for child protection in emergencies.
- capacity to contribute strategically and to provide operational support.
- Commit to guiding principles and standards.

Main responsibilities of members

- Regularly attend the CP SWG meetings and share information about activities, available and expected funding, trends and gaps, including geographical and programmatic gaps.
- Support planning and assessments with the CP SWG members to avoid duplication and address gaps.
- Actively take part in the implementation of the CP SWG's responsibilities
- Representing the CP SWG in other sector meetings, if required.
- Endorse and disseminate interagency standards, guidelines and tools.

Structure

The CP SWG may establish taskforces or technical group to develop or adapt inter-agency processes, guidance and tools.

TORs endorsement and revisions

The Child Protection Sub-Working Group's Terms of References (TORs) will be endorsed by the members and reviewed every 12 months based on the Chair or any of the members' recommendations. The TORs are a working document that can be revised to address emerging needs with the approval of at least 50% of the members.