

POLAND PROTECTION SECTOR MEETING
Meeting Minutes – 23 February 2023, 2 PM

Meeting subject:	Monthly Protection Sector Meeting
Time & location:	2pm, hybrid meeting
Chaired by:	UNHCR
Minutes prepared by:	UNHCR
Participants:	Towards Dialogue, Halina Niec Legal Aid Centre, WHO, Fundacja Q, Fundacja dla Migrantów „Dobry Start”, REACH, PAH, SIP, Oxfam, Safe Passage, CARE, Roma Council, Voice, FDDS, IRC, ICRC, PUI, IMC, DRC, Project HOPE, Faros Elpidas, Action Against Hunger, Americares, NCM, Plan International, CLEAR Global, Jaw Dikh Foundation and Centre of Migration Research, IOM, UNICEF, La Strada, Faros Elpidas, Loop, Clear Global, HIAS, Lutheran World Federation, A2, Polish Red Cross, HIACV, Save the Children, Mercy Corps, Habitat, PCK, Support to Life, Corus International, Soleterre, Two Birds, Caritas, Happy Kids, IFRC, University of Warsaw, Unbreakable Ukraine Foundation, ELIL, Ovum Association, RET International, PSAR
Agenda:	<p>Agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PS: Introduction – 5 min • PS: Establishing a joint mechanism to monitor the impact of amendments to the Special Act – 20 min • GBV: International Women’s Day – 5 min • GBV: GBV training assessment – 10 min • GBV: Human rights, needs and discrimination - The situation of Roma refugees from Ukraine in Poland from a gender perspective – 20 min • AT: 2022 challenges, developments and present IOM’s response particularly with a focus on 2023 – 20 min • MHPSS: updates and discussions from Health/MHPSS meeting – 20 min • AOB
AGENDA POINT	DISCUSSION
Introductions and Overview	Participants were welcomed to the twenty-fifth Protection Sector meeting for the Refugee Response on Poland. The agenda was presented. An update on the status of action points from the previous meeting was provided.

Agenda point 1	UNHCR presented a monitoring framework to observe the impacts of amendments to the Special Act. The proposed parameters aim at monitoring aspects related to i) withdrawal of temporary protection status/ deactivation of PESEL UKR; ii) obstacles for registration for those moving residence from elsewhere to Poland; iii) application of the Special Act amendments on financial contributions to collective shelters, including risks of eviction. The purpose of this joint tool is to better understand mechanisms in place in municipalities and oversee solutions and guidance that would allow, among others, status reactivation at local level.
Agenda point 2	The theme for International Women’s Day, 8 March 2023 is, “DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality”. This theme is aligned with the priority theme for the upcoming 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW-67), “Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls”. The International Women’s is a global day to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women and represents an opportunity to advocate for gender-based violence and gender equality. On 16 March a Webinar on Technology-facilitated violence (GBV and cybersecurity) will take place.
Agenda point 3	GBV training needs survey was conducted to plan activities for GBV SWG. More information will be shared and suggestions on joint activities are welcomed.
Agenda point 4	Towards Dialogue Foundation presented the situation of Roma refugees from Ukraine in Poland from a gender perspective. Among the refugee population in Poland the risk that Roma women face with regard to domestic violence, sexual exploitation and human trafficking is heightened due to poverty, social exclusion and lack of services. The Roma community furthermore abides by traditional gender roles, according to which men are more present and active in the public sphere, whereas Roma women in the private one. These gender roles come along with strict rules and expectations. Physical and psychological violence are moreover severely underreported among the Roma communities. This is influenced by poverty, a strong reliance on families and lack of financial independence and trust in institutions. Roma women experience indeed discrimination and survivors of GBV rely on relatives acting as mediators instead of authorities as they believe that no support will be offered. There is no trust in police officers and social workers because of fear and prejudice due to intergenerational discrimination, exclusion and persecution. This comes along with the risk of stigma in their own family of origin. Towards Dialogue Foundation provides referral pathways for sexual survivors and psychological support.
Agenda point 5	IOM presented 2022 challenges, developments and present IOM’s response particularly with a focus on 2023. The current CT strategy comprises four pillars: i) prevention (through awareness raising, mitigating vulnerabilities, assisting vulnerable populations); ii) protection (through identification, referral, assistance, case management); iii) prosecution (through support to law enforcement, police authorities, border guards and guidance on victim-centred approaches); iv) partnership (through coordination across agencies). The CT strategy is based on a holistic approach comprising activities aimed at satisfying basic needs to refugees from Ukraine coming to Poland, including provision of essential assistance to UKR and TCNS, vulnerable screenings, presence in collective shelters, monitoring, reporting to law enforcement (last year there were 5 cases notified to BG/police), mapping support for victims, information activities (leaflets, posters, which are distributed in collective shelters and border crossing points), referrals for short or long term accommodation, CBI distribution, awareness raising sessions for refugee population. Field Protection teams are present in Warsaw and Podkarpacie and

	provide tailored assistance to persons with disabilities, GBV human trafficking survivors, UASC, and elderly. As part of CT's strategy more than 500 persons were trained in 2022, mainly representative of polish forces, police, municipalities, local authorities. Such trainings covered CT but also antidiscrimination and intercultural discrimination, GBV, PSEA, CP and vulnerable cases identification. Between April and December 2022 cost-free accommodation was provided for 5008 persons, of which 12% of the bookings were made for TCNs. IOM's Infoline provided over 8 thousands consultations, the majority of which were provided to UKR nationals. As for 2023 plans, the main activities will include: i) a cross-country campaign on CT; ii) CT trainings to LOT airlines, collective shelters' personnel, BG and law enforcement authorities on international humanitarian standards, vulnerability identification, risk assessment and assistance to vulnerable groups.
Agenda point 6	Updates from last MHPSS TWG's meeting on 10 th February were presented. The MHPSS TWG's priorities and workplan were circulated in an email for feedback and will be finalized and shared with Partners. Collection of information on MHPPS assessments with IMWG is ongoing and will be launched this year. More details on two trainings opportunities will be shared by WHO.

ACTION POINTS SUMMARY				
No.	Action	Responsible	Deadline	Status
1.	Presentation on joint monitoring framework to be shared and feedback to be provided	UNHCR and all partners	asap	Completed