MEETING MINUTES

ECONOMIC INCLUSION WORKING GROUP MEETING

DATE	25.07.2024	TIME	11:00-13:00	PLACE	Online meeting

CHAIRS	
1.	UNHCR (Diogo Salema Da Costa Cabral Senior Livelihood and Economic Inclusion Officer cabrald@unhcr.org)
2.	CARITAS POLSKA (Paulina Babis, Project Coordinator Migrant and Refugee pbabis@caritas.org.pl)
PRESENTERS	
1.	Ilia Markowski, Info Management associate, UNHCR.
2.	Kamila Wodnicka, sociotherapist, career counsellor, and career coach with 15 years of experience in the field of career counselling.

PARTICIPANTS	
1.	UNHCR
2.	Caritas
3.	Fundacja Zustricz
4.	Narodowy Bank Polski (NBP)
5.	Fundacja Profil
6.	Right to Protection
7.	International Rescue Committee (IRC)
8.	Fundacja Innowacja i Wiedza (FIIW)
9.	Ukrainian Educational Hub in Poland
10.	Dom Otwarty

11.	International Finance Corporation (IFC)
12.	University of Warsaw
13.	Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC)
14.	Red Cross
15.	Tent

AGENDA

11:00 – 11:10 Introductions by UNHCR and Caritas Poland.

11:10 – 11:25 **PART 1:** SEIS - Data validation and preliminary analysis.

11:25 – 11:50 Discussion + Q&A on SEIS presentation.

11:50 – 12:15 **PART 2**: Presentation of a proprietary tool for working with migrants called T.R.I.P

(Kamila Wodnicka - Master in pedagogy, sociotherapist, career counsellor, and career coach with 15 years of experience in the field of career counselling + Q&A)

12:15 – 13:00 AOB

INTRODUCTION

This working group meeting focused on two main presentations. The first one was presented by the Information Management team from UNHCR and it introduced the data obtained by the SEIS (the Social-Economic Insights Survey). The second one focused on T.R.I.P, a proprietary tool for working with migrants, presented by Kamila Wodnicka, an expert in career counselling.

OVERVIEW OF THE SITUATION

I. Presentation on SEIS – Data Validation and preliminary analysis

The Social-Economic Insights Survey (SEIS), formerly the Multi-sector Needs Assessment (MSNA), is a collaborative process that identifies the most urgent needs of refugees across various sectors.

It consists of a survey on individual and household level conducted regionally to understand the social-economic situation of Refugees from Ukraine.

The overview of the preliminary results are based on the analysis of collected data in accordance with designed sample size.

Comprehensive and accurate data is collected to guide the planning, implementation, and evaluation of programs and interventions aimed at meeting these needs. SEIS is closely linked to the studies conducted in 2023 and 2022 to obtain comparable results on:

- The needs of refugees in Poland, focusing on the refugee population in the country.
- The level of socio-economic integration and access to national systems.
- Gaps in services and the priorities of refugees for the coming year.
- The identification of changing trends in refugee needs.

SEIS is a key source of information for planning the RRP for 2025, which aims to capture funding and response planning requirements. These preliminary results cover the following areas:

❖ **Demographics**

88% of respondents were women, and 12% were men.
The largest age group was 35-59 years old (55%).
Nearly all respondents (99%) hold Ukrainian citizenship.
Average household size: 2.4
48% of households had a member with a chronic illness.
5% of women were pregnant or breastfeeding.
57% of households had children.
82% female head of the households
3% of households had infants.
12% were elderly individuals.
13.5% were households with members who had a significant disability.

Interviews were conducted in each of Poland's 16 voivodeships. The majority of interviews were conducted in the Mazowieckie voivodeship (21%), particularly in the capital, Warsaw, where most refugees reside.

❖ **Protection**

94% of respondents reported long waiting times for resolving residency legality.
Compared to 2023, there was a noticeable increase in hostile behaviors or attitudes towards refugees in 2024 (from 32% to 41%).
Child Protection: As in 2023, most refugees in 2024 reported violence directly to the police (82%).
67% of respondents are familiar with security and protection services.
57% are familiar with health services.
46% of respondents received assistance within the last three months.
(36% and 32%) The majority of respondents were dissatisfied with the distribution of humanitarian aid and government social assistance programs.
Protection of Women:43% fear verbal harassment; 35% fear persecution, and 29% fear being robbed.

Protection of Men: 31% fear verbal harassment; 30% fear deportation, and 28% fear being robbed.
55% of households do not know where to find information (2024), compared to 63% in 2023.
34% do not know which information to trust (2024), compared to 39% in 2023.
38% of respondents prefer to receive information via social media (Facebook), and 37% via Telegram.
64% of respondents are satisfied with the behavior of aid workers.
33% of respondents have not encountered any aid workers.
Only 3% expressed dissatisfaction with the service of aid workers: (lack of empathy and understanding 55%, respondents' opinions are not taken into account: 39%).
73% of respondents feel that the assistance received was insufficient.
37% of respondents visited Ukraine, 37% did not consider the need, and 26% were unable to visit.
67% are afraid to visit Ukraine due to safety concerns, while 33% due to territory occupation.

- **Education**

75% of eligible children were enrolled in school in Poland for the 2023/2024 school year.
Reasons for lack of registration: 30% completed studies and attended Ukrainian school remotely

- **Social inclusion, economic integration, and livelihoods**

Unemployment rate decreased from 11% in 2023 to 6% in 2024. The percentage of youth who are NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) also dropped to 7% in 2024, compared to 11% in 2023.

69% of respondents of working age are employed.
19% work in the manufacturing sector.
17% work in the hospitality and food service industries.
8% work in transportation.

The main reasons for unemployment are: 29% lack of Polish language skills, 23% lack of jobs with decent pay, 16% lack of job offers matching their skills, and 16% inflexible work schedules.

38% of respondents have adopted some coping strategy for difficult life situations.
29% live off savings, 10% reduce their health expenditures, and 6% reduce their education expenditures.

- **Health**

48% of respondents have at least one person with a chronic illness in their household.
11% of respondents have a family member with unmet health needs, which accounts for 20% of households with healthcare needs.

38% report long waiting times for assistance as a barrier to accessing healthcare, 38% cite financial barriers and lack of funds for transport, 19% lack of funds for hospital fees, and 18% inability to schedule an appointment.
25% of respondents state they need support for mental health issues.
49% of those in need received support.
28% did not receive support because they were not convinced of the need for it.
23% did not know where to seek help.

- **Housing**

61% of respondents live in a separate apartment or house.
19% share an apartment with others.
9% live in a hotel/hostel.
6% live in collective accommodation.
4% have worker accommodation.
20% of households are under pressure to leave their current residence.
21% report problems with their current housing. The most common issues are insufficient privacy and a lack of separate toilets and showers.

<u>General Information about the Study:</u>

- Data was collected by: UNHCR and IOM.
- The study was conducted at the household level.
- Population: Over 3,090 refugees living in metropolitan and rural areas across 16 regions (voivodeships) in private accommodations with host families, rented accommodations, hostels/hotels, and government-designated collective facilities.
- Households visited: 1,290 (80% living outside of collective shelters, and 18% living in collective shelters).
- Data collection period: From May 16, 2023, to June 25, 2024.
- Preliminary analysis was conducted by UNHCR.

<u>Limitations encountered during the study:</u>

- Data collection before school holidays/during working hours likely affected the sample.
- Lack of comprehensive data on population locations and difficulties conducting interviews outside collective sites and distribution points.
- Sensitivity to questions regarding protection and income, resulting in a high non-response rate and less reliable data.
- Respondent bias: certain indicators may be under-reported or over-reported due to the subjectivity and perceptions of respondents.

Broader conclusions will be presented in September.

II. Presentation on the T.R.I.P tool

T.R.I.P. as a journey (from the English word "trip") because searching for oneself is a journey.

T – Talent

R – Development (Rozwoj)

I – Inspiration

P – Passion

The T.R.I.P. framework outlines key areas essential for career development, focusing on improving the chances of finding a suitable job. This framework includes Talent, Development, Inspiration, and Passion.

- **Talent**: It involves recognizing and building on personal strengths to utilize in job searches and various life situations. The objective is to identify and articulate one's strengths based on broader life and work experiences.
- **Development:** it emphasizes accumulating meaningful experiences and identifying key life events that have contributed to personal and professional growth. The goals are to pinpoint significant milestones and plan further developmental activities that enhance knowledge and skills.
- **Inspiration**: it focuses on gathering information and participating in events that foster development. This includes attending conferences, exhibitions, and local initiatives to meet new people and gain insights from different environments. The aim is to expand personal and professional networks and draw inspiration from diverse sources.
- **Passion**: it involves identifying tasks that provide satisfaction and meaning, which are pursued voluntarily. These tasks should bring joy, teach new skills, and refine existing ones. The objective is to continually recognize and integrate these passions into daily life.

The tool is designed to discover the potential of the person they are working with. It can be used when the advisor has contact with the client, but it can also be sent to the client. If the client has an insightful view of themselves, developed analytical skills, or self-reflection, they can complete this exercise independently at home as homework, with minimal help from the advisor.

T.R.I.P. gathers resources that can be used at various times, such as for a CV or during a brief conversation with a potential employer to present one's strongest points. Additionally, the tool is useful in enhancing self-esteem, self-worth, understanding one's competencies, and identifying strengths.

It is crucial when looking for a job in the most effective way, through personal and professional networks. Knowing one's competencies allows for quick communication about how one fits a particular job offer during conversations.

T.R.I.P. consists of 12 exercises. Each part includes a theoretical section and exercises for self-analysis and work with a career advisor. It is a process-oriented tool that requires at least three hours for each part of T.R.I.P. The tool can be completed in its entirety, or each exercise can be done separately, and not necessarily in sequence.

The author of the tool is open to collaboration.

WAY FORWARD

Initiatives for upcoming meetings and potential presenters are welcome for the next session in September.

NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 26th September, 2024