

Inter-Agency Coordination

Moldova

Meeting subject:	Moldova Protection Working Group Meeting
Time & location:	27 April 2022, Zoom
Chaired by:	Alice Farmer, Senior Protection Officer UNHCR
Participants:	IOM,OHCHR, UNFPA,UNHCR,UNICEF,UNWomen, UNAIDS, USAID OSCE,OXFAM,Palladium,Plan International,Project Hope, CCF,CDA,CRS, Caritas, ECHO, Help Page,INTERSOS, Handicap International, Keystone, ACTED, IsraAID, ICRC, Global Humanitarian, Global Medics, Medecins du Monde, OXFAM, DRC, NRC, WeWorld, PIN, Plan International, Action Aid, Help Age, Care International, Doreas Moldova, Regina Pacis, SDC,UK FCDO,Clear Global, CERI, CWS, REACH, ERRC, ANMR

AGENDA

Welcome and business items

1. Standing agenda items

- Trafficking
- PSS

2. Border updates

- Palanca
- Otaci

3. Protection Monitoring

4. New community monitoring dashboard

5. Coordination updates

- Joint work plan

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AGENDA POINT	DISCUSSION
1	<p>Welcome and business items</p> <p>Alice Farmer welcomed the participants, expressed her gratitude for the contributions of the participants to the Refugee Response Plan, the work on the indicators and for the 5W tool and presented the agenda of the meeting.</p>
3	<p>Standing agenda items</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trafficking <p>Regarding the last updates on anti-trafficking, the following can be highlighted:</p> <p>On 20 April, an online meeting on anti-trafficking was conducted by UNHCR with the representatives of the State Chancellery, General Prosecutor's Office, Bureau of Migration and Asylum, Centre for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings of the General Police Inspectorate and other state agencies.</p> <p>During the meeting, main areas of cooperation and partners' needs were discussed. There is a need for providing equipment and conducting training sessions. Among the topics of interest for training, the following can be mentioned: training for the media on raising awareness for prevention of trafficking, capacity building, knowledge sharing, techniques for interviewing victims, identifying trafficking cases. The interest in study tours and building contacts with foreign law-enforcement agencies was expressed.</p> <p>It was agreed that the State Chancellery will collect all requests and send the list with topics of required training sessions and other needs.</p> <p>Continuing the distribution of the stay safe posters and more flyers were ordered.</p>

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	<p>IOM representative reported that on countertrafficking a meeting was hold on 26 of April with the Ministry of Labour and La Strada, IOM being the main partner in this area for many years, an action plan for the next 2 years was discussed regarding the short, medium and long term.</p> <p>Discussion on the needs of training for the Border Police, such as short trainings on identification of victims, profiling and referrals, with the involvement of a maximum possible number of 1st line officers.</p> <p>Training also planned for Air Moldova and handling company on the identification of victims provided by the colleagues from OIM France.</p> <p>On protection and TGBV, IOM informed also about a project with Airbnb on safe accommodation for 1 month for refugees with a particular vulnerability, if alternative accommodation could not be found through the existing mechanism. Up to 3 months might be extended the accommodation, upon justification. A social assistant was hired to help them to find other opportunities.</p> <p>Keystone representative asked about the types of accommodation provided, the capacity building of the local public authorities and if persons with disabilities are considered vulnerable persons.</p> <p>OIM representative answered that the provided accommodation solution includes appartements and hotels, depending on the offers available on the market. is planned to cover the local public authorities too, probably in May and that La Strada also is providing some raising awareness meetings. UNHCR representative also confirmed that in collaboration with NGOs different groups will be involved in the capacity building.</p>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PSS <p>WHO representative shared a detailed information on the referral pathway for patients with mental health issues in the current health system in Moldova, as basic questions where to refer people to are still available, many question received from different sector putting questions, also statistics of cases are confirming the needs, as for the previous weeks.</p>

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	<p>The main referral pathway was outlined as: Family and social services, family doctor, community mental health centers, rayonal hospitals, specialized psychiatric hospitals (tertiary level) and finally community mental health centers.</p> <p>She reminded that 40 community health centres are available all over the country and 26 are working at the full capacity to provide the services. Specialists are present closed to policlinics or in the policlinics and are providing medication over prescription and they welcome refugees as well:</p> <p>http://trimbos.md/lista-centrelor-comunitare-de-sanatate-mintala-din-republica-moldova/</p> <p>Also a network of youth health friendly centres are present in the country:</p> <p>https://www.neovita.md/despre-neovita/reteaua-cspt/</p> <p>Many other actors are providing psychological first aid, Mensana, for example.</p> <p>If any needs for psychological first aid training, she invited to fill the 2 provided forms.</p> <p>Keystone representative praised the access to such services as mental health community centres, but raised the issue with access to medication, as their hotline received more calls for the last 2 weeks and proposed as solution to fund more this centres and other services, in order to obtain the necessary medication in the same place as the prescription. Another proposed solution was the medication only voucher. She also explained that until recently the resources of several private pharmacies were used and that they are not available anymore.</p> <p>UNFPA representative stated that a possibility to fund a multipurpose voucher is currently under consideration, that these expenses are high even for insured people in Moldova, in this order some solutions are under consideration in the area of the insurance, also she reminded that in the matter of reproductive health services are already funded and accessible for refugees.</p> <p>UNHCR representative stated that a separate discussion on the needs of particularly vulnerable persons is necessary.</p> <p>Oxfam representative asked about the burn-out of volunteers, especially in such difficult locations as MoldExpo, WHO representative answered to contact her directly to find out which entities are providing such trainings.</p>
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	<p>At the end of the presentation, the WHO representant thanked the participants and invited to reach her separately on this contact: kasianchukl@who.int</p>
5.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Border updates<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Palanca <p>CDA representative reported that most of the persons are arriving via organized buses, 70 % of arriving refugees for the last week were women with children and 20 % of persons with disabilities, observed an increase of the mobility disabilities and other disabilities.</p> <p>Also an increase observed concerning returning to Ukraine, most of them to safe places. A part of them are going for visits in order to feed the animals, visit relatives, take some clothes and for holidays.</p> <p>An increase of UASC children observed too, most of them parents and relatives and the Moldovan territory with no raised issues.</p> <p>An issue is that according the Ukrainian legislation children of 16 years are allowed to travel, but not according to the Moldovan one, where an age of 18 years is required or to be accompanied. So, UASC children are not allowed to cross the border to Romania and travel other EU countries, this issue need to be addressed. Some of the children when informed are renouncing on crossing the border and returning to Ukraine.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ Otaci <p>A similar small border crossing traffic is observed, but also in order to exchange money and withdraw money at ATM, a part of them are remaining in Moldova.</p> <p>Doctors are present at the Otaci also in case of support needed, Blue Dots are present and providing services.</p> <p>A range of illegal crossing reported.</p> <p>She also informed that the training for the Border Police on identification of vulnerabilities and the asylum law was finalized for North, Centre and South Region.</p>

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	<p>Keystone representative asked on big groups of persons with severe disabilities, request received on 80 such persons and 50 persons of staff, interested to evacuate to other EU countries, she wondered that if most of such persons are in bed, an not even stay, what possibilities will be to evacuate them immediately to Romania ?</p> <p>CDA representative answered that organized buses with persons with disabilities were headed to Germania and that specialized NGOs as Be Angel and partners for transportation as ACTED are aware of more details and that wheel chairs are present at the border, also some facilities at the Palanca Bus Station.</p> <p>PRM representative asked more details on the raise of number UASC children, CDA representative answered that for the last week 12 cases reported and that in one day might have 8 UASC children and another none, usually are handed to their families, but also to specialized centres as Carpineni, but for the exist need to be accompanied by and adult due to the difference between the Ukrainian and Moldovan legislation on 16-18 years children. So, some of them are returning back to Ukraine when informed on their situation.</p> <p>UNODC representative asked if there are any issues to cross the so called border of the Transnistria region, CDA representative answered that no issued reported, the crossing is possible.</p> <p>Another question was on entering Moldova with Russian passports ad CDA representative answered that no problem to enter Moldova with Russian passports.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protection Monitoring <p>UNHCR representative explained that Protection Monitoring is one of the core activities of the UNHCR and presented information on the necessity to have an harmonized protection tool and approach with comparable data in the entire geographical region receiving refugees from Ukraine in order to provide evidence-based protection interventions, to strengthen the active identification of person with special needs, to monitor and analyze trends and the regional and subregional levels in order to improve the operational planning and to enhance cross-border exchange of information.</p> <p>Further she explained the difference between the profiling and the protection monitoring, as the profiling tool might be used by non-protection trained persons and do not contain sensitive information or human rights protection incidents.</p>

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	<p>Locations for conducting interviews for the profiling are: nearby border areas, help desks and information desks, train and bus stations, cash enrolment centres, registration centres. Locations for conducting interviews for the protection monitoring are: reception and transit centres, communal accommodation, UN/NO offices, private accommodation.</p> <p>Safeguards of interviewing are: children under 14 will not be part of this exercise, those between 14 and 18 with the consent of their parent or legal guardian, UASC children will be referred as soon as this issue arrives during the interviews, survivors of trauma and potential victims of trafficking identified will be referred to specialized services and their referral prioritized over any other intervention.</p> <p>At the end the UNHCR representative concluded that the data analysis and joint narrative protection is not only an UNHCR product, but a common one, as result of collaborations with multiple actors.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New community monitoring dashboard <p>UNHCR representative reported that on 23 rd of March the tested tool was shared and many organizations send the feed-back, after the training on 11th of April, the tool was used at very different site: the border location, RACs, transportation hubs etc. All the collected data were linked to a tool to visualize them.</p> <p>75 visits were conducted, from them 61 to RACs and 14 to Border Crossing Points.</p> <p>The tool also has WASH, disability and inclusion, protection risks and concerns divisions.</p> <p>The dashboard is restricted to access, on demand.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordination updates Joint work plan <p>UNHCR representative informed that the Moldova Emergency Response is still consolidating, still looking for planning interagency activities and plans, at least for the next 3 months. This plan should involve the key actors of the protection working group as an reflection of the interagency joint efforts and plans, for example interagency advocacy, reaching to new actors or cross-cutting issues as mainstreaming of the GBV, according to a participatory process.</p> <p>UNHCR representative asked to send to farmera@unhcr.org all the contributions.</p>

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ACTION POINTS SUMMARY				
No.	Action	Responsible	Deadline	Status
1	Send inputs for the Joint Plan	Participants	Pending	27 April