



**UKRAINE REFUGEE EMERGENCY
REGIONAL PROTECTION WORKING GROUP (RPWG) MEETING**

Meeting Minutes – 29 April 2022

Meeting objective:	Discuss the pertinent protection issues at the regional level and the work of coordination structures established under the RPWG.
Time & location:	Every second Friday at 15:00-16:00, online
Participants:	CDAC Network, ICRC, ICVA, ILO, IOM, UN, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UN Women, WHO
Agenda:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction (UNHCR) 2. Debrief on CP SWG meeting (UNICEF); any other updates on CP 3. Debrief on Gender TF Meeting (UN Women) 4. Presentation on MHPSS (Regional Health Extension) 5. Debrief on GBV Mission to Moldova (UNHCR); any other updates on GBV 6. Updates on AAP 7. AOB
AGENDA POINT	DISCUSSION
1) Introduction (UNHCR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the agenda. • Special welcome to Julian Herrera from Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG/SVC) Pramila Patten.
2) Debrief on CP SWG meeting (UNICEF); any other updates on CP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First meeting of CP SWG took place on 26 April; it focused on discussing the participation. Managed to have a mix of country- and regional-level representation. • Group ToRs are being reviewed and will be ready for distribution by the next meeting., which will take place on 9 May, 3 PM. • Diving deeper into UASC and other CP issues in forthcoming meetings.

<p>3) Debrief on Gender TF Meeting (UN Women)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Gender Task Force (RGTF) currently numbers 60 members from nearly 40 organisations; UN Women co-chairs it with CARE International. • Four main streams: regional rapid gender analysis, CB, training needs, advocacy. • Working very closely with country-level WGs, the JIHA and the Moldova Gender TF, to make sure that our work is driven by the demands of the country-level WGs. • Four key areas of inquiry: SR health and rights, intergender violence, SEA and participation/leadership of women and marginalized groups. • Building on country-level gender analysis (GA) to produce Regional GA (RGA) by end-June. • Moldova GTF yesterday requested a set of trainings around gender and humanitarian action, to involve sectoral leads and members. RGTF is working on setting up a roving team to provide technical support to other countries and refugees. • Looking to hear whether in some other countries there is need for gender mainstreaming. • In Moldova, Gender TF met today and a number of CSOs noted increase in violence in reception centres due to unmet needs. • GTF will be focusing a bit more on inclusion in service provision, and addressing an increasingly tense environment for the refugees by engaging with the media and the local authorities and advocacy messaging on gender equality , not just from the protection angle but also by looking at women as agents of change.
<p>4) Presentation on MHPSS (Regional Health Extension)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior MHPSS Officer of UNHCR deployed to Poland in the Regional Health Extension based in Krakow, which is a collaboration of WHO, UNHCR ECDC and UNICEF (their regional bureaus), and builds on existing synergies. <div style="text-align: center;">  MHPSS RPWG 29 April.pptx </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on MHPSS in Ukraine Emergency. • Issues are enormous and highly recognized: increased prevalence of people with MH conditions, depression, PTSD and more serious MH conditions, substance abuse, etc. • Visited Warsaw, the shelters and the blue dots; based on observations, the following are the major challenges: lack of information on MHPSS (Warsaw is an exception), massive needs and uncontrolled volunteers spreading misinformation. • Staff needs to be more consistently trained in PSS (e.g. Mercy Corps provide such training). • Governments have been remarkably responsive, but access to health care is still a challenge (due to lack of information, fear of discrimination, et al.) • MHPSS is not a sector - it is a core activity supporting both health and protection sectors. • Need stronger linkages among the different levels in the technical groups for MHPSS - these technical working groups are functional in all five countries, with inconsistent participation. • Among the refugees there are individuals trained in PFA – partners ought to capitalise on that.
<p>5) Debrief on GBV Mission to Moldova (UNHCR); any other</p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  Debriefing%20mission%20Moldova%20gbv </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on GBV Mission to Moldova.

updates on GBV (UN, UNDP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR finalizing preparations for the launch of the regional GBV SWG, including the first draft of the Group ToRs; first meeting of the Group will take place in the next ten days. • Those interested in joining in the GBV SWG to contact Olga Vorontsova-Mykhailova vorontso@unhcr.org . <p>Julian Herrera:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR staff member, sitting in the office of the SRSG on Sexual Violence in Conflict. • SRSG visiting Ukraine, Poland and Moldova, starting next week, for a ten-day period, mainly to sign frameworks of collaboration for pursuing programmes that will deal with conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) and services provided to survivors. • In Poland, the SRSG will be meeting with officials and visiting some centres; similar in Moldova – meetings with local officials and visiting the Blue Dots; she will be accompanied by a team of experts on sexual violence in conflict, in order to follow-up on cases of violence later on. <p>UNDP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Regional Office in Istanbul is sending a separate mission of experts on CRSV into the field and willing to join hands with the SRSG.
6) Updates on AAP (UNHCR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CwC: Working with UNICEF to finalise the launch of Digital Blue Dots, and on a standardized form for CFM for Blue Dots. • Stay Safe Campaign - 1.4. mil hits thus far. Developing a longer video around the same messages. • TFs on AAP in Hungary and Slovenia are mapping CFMs and working out the SOPs. Dedicated interagency workshop coming up on 10 May.
7) AOB (IOM, UNHCR)	<p>IOM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Anti-Trafficking (AT) TF informal meeting took place last week with 30 participants. • AT TF is co-chaired by IOM and UNODC and its first official meeting will take place on 4 May, to be chaired by IOM, and then chairing of the meetings to be rotated between IOM and UNODC. <p>UNHCR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bearing in mind the establishment of the AT TF and the CP SWG, and the upcoming launch of the GBV SWG, would like to reduce frequency of RPWG meetings to every two weeks. • Next meeting will therefore take place on 13 May and will be focusing on persons with disabilities (featuring a presentation from the European Forum on Disabilities). RPWG members are welcome to flag any issues to be addressed in the upcoming meeting.

No.	Action	FP	Status
1.	Consult protection coordinators (during weekly call) if there is need for gender mainstreaming at the level of their country operation, and report back.	RBE/Geraldine	ongoing
2.	Ensure upcoming meetings of regional protection structures are up-to-date and uploaded on the global data portals' respective pages.	RBE/Vera	done