

UKRAINE REFUGEE EMERGENCY
REGIONAL PROTECTION WORKING GROUP (RPWG) MEETING
 Meeting Minutes

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| Time & location: | 20 July 2022 at 10:30-12:00, online |
| Participants: | Danish Refugee Council, European Disability Forum, HelpAge International, IOM, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UN Women, WHO |
| Agenda: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction 2. Presentation on <i>Profile and Intentions of Refugees from Ukraine</i> report (Gemma Woods, UNHCR) - followed by discussion 3. Presentation on <i>Education in Exile - Challenges in bringing Ukrainian children and youth into education in the new school year</i> (Fredrik Smets, UNHCR) – followed by discussion 4. Debrief from CP and GBV sub-Working Groups (UNHCR/UNICEF), Gender TF (UN WOMEN), AT TF (IOM/UNODC, UNICEF, UNHCR) 5. AOB |
| AGENDA POINT | DISCUSSION |
| 1. Introduction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of the agenda • Members are invited to join the next meeting of the RPWG in a month’s time in person in UNHCR HQ. • The High Commissioner for Refugees and the UNHCR RBE Director visited Ukraine in the week of 4 July, including visits to Kyiv Oblast, Lviv, Irpin and Bucha, where they met with the IDPs and discussed the preparations for winter with the authorities. • Winter preparations and back to school preparations will also be the subject of discussion of the Refugee Coordination Forums at the national level. • There is a lot of movement out of and into Ukraine; returns are not sustainable, but rather temporary. UNHCR therefore undertook an Intentions Survey in the region, to understand the nature of these movements. Earlier in July, a Lives on Hold: Profiles and Intentions of Refugees from Ukraine report was issued based on survey results. |
| 2. Presentation on <i>Profile and Intentions of Refugees from Ukraine</i> report (UNHCR) | <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>RBE-DIMA Profiles & Intentions REF from U</p> </div> <p>UNHCR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wanted to have a deeper understanding of the dynamics, movements and intentions of people, and to establish how permanent/temporary are these movements into Ukraine. The data collected will be continuously updated. • Hoping that this kind of analysis will help inform interagency responses (in terms of where the advocacy, the programming and support to persons of concern and governments should focus), and hoping to ensure the centrality of refugees’ voices (results of |

seven FGDs in Poland and Romania were taken into account in the survey).

- Methodology: mainly face to face, individual interviews in Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, in the different areas in these countries.
- The survey covered displacement patterns, current situation, intentions. Over 5,000 interviews were conducted, mainly in the 15-59 age group.
- 90% of surveyed households are made up of women and children, and 43% of them had at least one person with a disability in their midst. High level of education and skills amongst those surveyed; significant proportion worked in education, retail, medical/health sector.
- Vast majority are separated from at least one family member (80-85%). Majority of these cases happened due to the implementation of the martial law in Ukraine.
- 75% have biometric and 14% non-biometric (internal) passports. Majority came from the east or west of the country and Kyiv. Most reside in private accommodation (either hosted or renting).
- Main urgent needs: cash, employment, and education.
- Vast majority hope to return to Ukraine once the conditions are safe; for the moment majority intend to stay in host countries. 16% intend to return in short-term, 10% are uncertain and 9% wish to move to another host country (esp. those displaced more recently and those accommodated in collective centres, citing safety reasons and lack of employment, family reasons, etc.).16% of those intending to return to Ukraine, intend to do so temporarily mainly, to collect family members or documents. They are also not sure when they would be going back to Ukraine.
- Recommendations: 1) importance of making sure that refugees are able to make free and informed decisions on their future; 2) adequate assistance and support is key to making the refugees stay in host countries; 3) refugees from Ukraine require continued access to safety and protection.
- Future data collection plans: sample-based intention surveys planned for August 2022 and end of 2022.
- When it comes to data disaggregation, the question posed in the survey was: “is there an older person or a person with disability in the household”; further disaggregation is not available. UNHCR can look into further disaggregation in upcoming surveys.
- Challenges in services: did not drill down in this report but in the process of gathering info on barriers to accessing services under the Temporary Protection Directive (TPD) regime.
- In the case of asylum-seekers, the legal framework obliges EUMS to enroll children into schools within 3 months of their arrival, and to provide them with language classes. These requirements are absent from TPD regime - there is a right to education, but no legal obligation, meaning the incentive is absent. Other problems with TPD: 1) documentary requirements are lighter, and there are legal and administrative barriers to residency permits which in some countries are prerequisite for enrollment in schools, 2) there are less data on TP holders and their whereabouts, as opposed to asylum holders.
- Data on UAC and SC was not collected; the data is indicative but not conclusive on that front.

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| <p>3. Presentation on <i>Education in Exile – Challenges in bringing Ukrainian children and youth into education in the new school year (UNHCR)</i></p> | <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>2022_18_07 UNHCR CP SWG on education</p> </div> <p>UNHCR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of Ukrainian children into host country schools: data for the Russian Federation is not totally verified. • The sheer numbers of children clearly indicate what the pressure will be on the host countries to host the children in national schools. The numbers are first issue, the second issue is data: we know that there are hundreds of thousands of Ukrainian children in the EU, but we do not know their whereabouts (posing a problem for planning). • School capacities are another challenge: Poland, Czechia, Hungary, etc. historically do not have the critical experience of integrating refugee children in the national school systems, and the current numbers way higher than the numbers that Europe witnessed in 2015-2016 (Belgium for example is receiving triple the number of refugee children compared to 2015-2016). • MHPSS is a major issue. • Online learning: the Ukrainian Ministry of Education (MoEdu) has invested outmost efforts to keep the education going (since 2014, during Covid lockdowns, and now during the war). These developed methods have been put to good use. A lot of Ukrainian children have been able to continue learning in some shape or form, even to graduate. MoEdu is organising online examinations for high school graduation this year, and they are continuing the pressure on Ukrainian children to carry on with online learning into the new school year. This poses challenges and problems and does not allow for same certification and long-term perspectives. • Parents are reluctant to enroll children in national schools, due to lack of information and concerns about recognition of the national educational certificates. • Poland had, enrolled, 184,660 schoolchildren at end-May, putting a large strain on the education system of Poland, mainly in the urban areas; this number has gone down by some 2,000 children since end-May, which means that children are being pulled out of schools. Consequently, only 40-43% of Ukrainian school-age children are enrolled in education in Poland. Reasons behind it are that parents are worried that their children do not understand the lessons in Polish, and that the Polish law does not enforce compulsory education for Ukrainian children, if/once the children declare that they are enrolled in Ukrainian online learning. • There is issue of certification and sustainability – what happens in 2023, and how can national authorities certify the online learning provided by Ukrainian authorities. • A survey by IsraAid and UNICEF in Moldova shows that most of the parents are still in “wait-and-see” mode. Boys aged 16-18 tend to fall out of the school system. • Romania has stated that they only have 5,000 places in schools for Ukrainian children in the coming school year, which could imply that the rest of the children will be placed into the informal Ukrainian system. • Shared Guidance Documents. |
| <p>4. Debrief from CP and GBV sub-Working Groups, Gender TF AT TF</p> | <p>UN Women:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Regional Gender Task Force has: 1) completed the first draft of the Regional Rapid Gender Analysis and an extensive validation process, involving review by and consultations with key partners and women's rights organisations. It is underway and will be completed in August. 2) Several launch/dissemination events are being planned and discussed – further update will follow. 3) Planning a briefing session with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine Gender Advisor on 27 July, who |

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| | <p>will be updating on their work/investigation plans.</p> <p>UNHCR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Regional Child Protection SWG met on 18 July; it featured a discussion on young athletes in sport schools and circus performing troupes, from the point of view of child protection. • The Group will follow-up on this phenomenon, once UNHCR has more information on the existing care/guardianship arrangements. • The Meeting also featured a “Back to school” presentation from Fredrik Smets of UNHCR, on the challenges of integrating the Ukrainian refugee children into national schools. • The Regional GBV SWG met on 19 July. It featured a presentation from the International Medical Corps on GBV Programming in Ukraine: the process, the work with local women’s organizations, etc. It also featured a presentation by Refugees International on the preliminary findings of their missions to Romania and Moldova. • The Regional Anti-Trafficking Task Force (AT TF) met on 7 July; since it now meets on a fortnightly basis, the next meeting will take place on 21 July. • There were two main agenda items discussed on 7 July. The first one was an initiative by the OSCE Office of the Special Representative on Trafficking which convened a meeting focusing on capacity building on trafficking in the Ukraine response; OSCE has also conducted two surveys to gather information about gaps and needs. 55% of the consulted agencies, NGOs and international organizations are involved in the response already, including in training provision, and 75% are planning new trainings. They also identified a number of challenges, particularly relating to the high staff turnover, language and translation issues, ensuring that trainings are coordinated with the anti-trafficking structures and institutions that pre-date the war, the need to continue mainstreaming anti-trafficking protection messages in the humanitarian response, securing functioning referral pathways in case of identification of victims and potential victims, etc. The meeting discussed the possibility of reaching out to institutions involved in registration, to try and ensure detection and referral for victims and potential victims. • The second agenda item was the discussion on the UNHCR-produced Guidance on Vetting and making it an interagency document. UNICEF, IOM, UNODC and other partners have already worked on it. UNHCR will consolidate the comments received and re-circulate the Guidance in August for endorsements by the AT TF. • The meeting also discussed the collection of data on cases of trafficking in persons. |
| 5. AOB | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next RPWG meeting will take place on Friday 19 August, starting at 2 PM. |

| No. | Action point | FP | Status |
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| 1. | RPWG members to refer to UN Women if they wish to participate in the Regional Rapid Gender Analysis’ validation, and/or to join in the briefing session with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine Gender Advisor on 27 July. | Jo-Anne Bishop jo-anne.bishop@unwomen.org | ongoing |

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| 2. | UNHCR to circulate the draft Regional Interagency Protection Update for inputs prior to next RPWG meeting. | Geraldine Salducci Petruccelli salducci@unhcr.org | pending |
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