



TASK FORCE IN TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

Meeting Details			
Date	12/08/2022		
Time	14:00-16:40		
Co-chairs	UNHCR, State Chancellery, IOM		
Reporting	UNHCR		
Email	bogdeva@unhcr.org ; diana.doros@gov.md ; ddonoaga@iom.int ; ursol@unhcr.org		
Agenda			
<i>Meeting agenda</i>			
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Welcome remarks2. Review and discussion of the Action Plan3. Current (suspected) case reporting/referral systems and services for victims/presumed victims of trafficking in Moldova4. Update on the recent development and activities on Countering Trafficking in Persons5. AoB and wrap-up			
Information collection and relevant links			
https://cancelaria.gov.md/ro/content/wwwhelpforukrainiansinfo-informatii-utile-pentru-combaterea-traficului-de-persoane-randul			
https://cancelaria.gov.md/ro/content/de-ziua-mondiala-impotriva-traficului-de-persoane-guvernul-lanseaza-o-serie-de-instruiri			
Participants			
<i>Diana Doros, Head of Human Rights Coordination and Social Dialog Department, State Chancellery</i>	<i>Diana Donoagă-Certan, Programme Coordinator, IOM</i>	<i>Martina Bogdeva, Anti-Trafficking Specialist, UNHCR</i>	<i>Jana Nagnitschenko, Human Dimension Officer, OSCE</i>



<i>Alexandru Ghețu, Head of Department, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection</i>	<i>Tanita Cotarcea, Protection Consultant, IOM</i>	<i>Hanna Ursol, Field Associate, UNHCR</i>	<i>Flavius Onofrei, Deputy Head of EUBAM Office in Moldova, EUBAM</i>
<i>Evelina Miron, Consultant, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection</i>	<i>Valentin Nicolai, Deputy Head of the Department, Border Police General Inspectorate</i>	<i>Olga Bîtca, Protection Associate, UNHCR</i>	<i>Oleg Mulco, Safety and Security Manager, IRC</i>
<i>Doina Cazacu, Specialist, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection</i>	<i>Vitalie Cojocari, Joint Crisis Management Centre</i>	<i>Valentina Duque Echeverri, GBV Officer, UNHCR Moldova</i>	<i>Christopher Lomas, Founder, Hope 4</i>
<i>Inga Botnari, Secretary I, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European integration</i>	<i>Vasile Harea, Head of the Centre for Combatting Trafficking in Persons (CCTP)</i>	<i>Tatiana Fomina, Public Policy Analyst, IO „La Strada”</i>	<i>Andi Hayes, Counter Exploitation Expert, Operation Orphan</i>
<i>Cătălin Luca, Attaché, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration</i>	<i>Aliona Bucuci, Prosecutor, General Prosecutor’s Office</i>	<i>Stavros Zotos, Child Protection in Emergencies Specialist, Plan International Global Hub</i>	<i>Marianna Prysiashniuk, Humanitarian Liaison Officer, Internews</i>
<i>Cristina Țarigradean-Raileanu, Senior Specialist, National Employment Agency</i>	<i>Valentina Seuța, Specialist, Centre for Assistance and Protection of Victims and Potential Victims of Human Trafficking</i>	<i>Ottavia Sanvito, Intersos</i>	<i>Isaac ESPINOSA DELGADO, Coordinator (Acting), Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants Unit, Interpol</i>
<i>Vitalie Bînzari, Senior Inspector, National Labour Inspectorate</i>	<i>Nadejda Radu, Head of the Service for Assistance of Male Victims of Trafficking</i>	<i>Victoria Botnaru, Senior Specialist, National Agency for Social Assistance</i>	<i>Aleksandra Andjelic, Program and Liaison Officer,</i>



			<i>International Rescue Committee (IRC)</i>
<i>Svetlana Mirca, Chief Consultant, Human Rights Coordination and Social Dialog Department, State Chancellery</i>			

Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
Agenda Points 1, 2	<p>Welcome remarks. Review and discussion of the Action Plan</p> <p>State Chancellery's representative welcomed the participants of the third meeting of the Task Force and presented the agenda of the meeting. The Action Plan (AP) and overview of activities were presented, mentioning that most activities were focused on prevention. It was informed that the Plan still needed to be reviewed and amended. Once the document would be finalized, it would be translated into English.</p> <p>La Strada representative asked if the AP would be approved officially, and it was said that that issue should be additionally discussed.</p> <p>IOM representative asked about the regularity of the reporting and proposed bi-monthly reporting. The reporting would be additionally discussed after the AP finalization. The AP's report could be also used for reporting on implementation of the international recommendations addressed to the Government of Moldova.</p> <p>It was also proposed that some AP activities could be merged, as some of them were duplicated by different actors.</p>	



EUBAM representative proposed to replace the word “punishment” with “combatting” as this would allow including more partners under this section. Regarding partners disseminating materials, it was mentioned that the materials were disseminated in partnership with the Moldovan Border Police but there was no partnership agreement signed.

Prosecutor’s Office’s representative informed that the word “punishment” could be changed to “combatting” but the idea was to monitor the situation with crimes’ follow-up.

MFAEI representative asked to pay attention to the wording in the AP, in particular requesting to use the wording “Transnistrian region” in the document.

It was proposed to work more with communities at the local level in villages and small localities considering the probability of lack of access to internet.

State Chancellery’s representative informed that the activities weren't discussed with local authorities. The first exercise conducted was the training for the territorial commissions for combatting human trafficking in July. Their needs could be discussed during one of the sessions.

UNHCR representative supported the idea to add local activities to the AP.

MFAEI representative proposed to focus on localities with big numbers of refugees.

CCTP representative proposed to create a calendar with activities to see the planned activities and timeframe.

The representative of the **Service for Assistance of Male Victims of Trafficking** mentioned that she was recently asked by one NGO to provide training sessions on trafficking in



	<p>refugee accommodation centres (RACs) and raised concern that small NGOs with no expertise were working on such a sensitive issue as trafficking without coordinating that with authorities and/or other development partners with expertise in the field. She mentioned that she refused the proposed collaboration and advised NGOs to coordinate such activities and join the Task Force.</p> <p>The information materials available in RACs should be not only in Romanian or Russian but also in Ukrainian.</p> <p>State Chancellery's representative stated that the training process should be coordinated with the relevant state institution and that the Task Force was created to coordinate such activities.</p> <p>Local public agencies were provided with corresponding recommendations.</p> <p>UNHCR representative mentioned that recently RACs were overwhelmed with numerous visits of different organizations.</p> <p>EUBAM representative stated that the issue of restricting access should be coordinated with the RAC managers.</p> <p>State Chancellery's representative assured that the issue would be addressed to the RAC managers.</p> <p>EUBAM proposed to nominate contact persons in RACs to coordinate visits.</p>	
Agenda Point 3	Current (suspected) case reporting/referral systems and services for victims/presumed victims of trafficking in Moldova	



The representative of the **Centre for Assistance and Protection of Victims and Potential Victims of Trafficking (CAP)** made a presentation of their main activities and referral pathways.

CAP was a state institution established under the National Agency of Social Assistance assisting victims of trafficking and persons at-risk (such as victims of violence, children being victims of abuse, unaccompanied children, children left behind. The beneficiaries could stay in the centre for 30 days or sometimes even more if needed (up to one year or more).

The national referral system was in place. Multidisciplinary teams (MDTs), composed of different specialists, were established in each district and their coordinator was a specialist of the Social Assistance Department.

MDTs consisted of different specialists (the main ones were social workers, doctors, police officers, employment agencies' representatives). The centre cooperated with local and territorial services, including non-governmental service providers. The referral to the CAP could be direct, beneficiary could request assistance, the case could be referred by law-enforcement, MDTs focal points, NGOs (in that case CAP would inform the central authorities about the placement) or through the National Coordination Unit established within the MLSP.

The main challenge of CAP was reintegration of a person in society, as the state didn't cover those costs. Monitoring and follow-up of cases was ensured.

The representative of the **Service for Assistance of Male Victims of Trafficking** informed that the centre started its activity in February 2021 (piloted by the National Agency of Social Assistance with the support of IOM) and since June 2022 all costs related to the service functioning was covered by the state budget. The total capacity of the centre was 10 places, located in a bigger centre under the National Agency of Social Assistance. There was also established a refugee accommodation centre with 60 beds capacity.



	<p>In case of document issues with non-Moldovan citizens, the Bureau of Migration and Asylum was addressed.</p>	
Agenda Point 4	<p>Update on the Recent Developments and Activities on Countering Trafficking in Persons</p> <p>The representative of the Centre of Combatting Trafficking in Persons (CCTIP) informed that its hotline was operational 24/7. The update on the recent suspected case was provided, mentioning that the group of suspected people received humanitarian assistance products, intended for Ukrainian refugees, in Moldova and sold them at Odesa markets.</p> <p>One case of prostitution by a Ukrainian woman was mentioned. As the war was going on, people ran out of savings and could be involved in such activities.</p> <p>State Chancellery's representative mentioned about the elaboration of the National Report on the implementation of GRETA recommendations.</p> <p>On 8 September, the results of the implemented recommendations by Moldova would be discussed during a round table with GRETA representatives.</p> <p>The representative of the National Agency of Social Assistance informed that currently there were 74 RACs operational in Moldova. There were Covid cases in several RACs but quarantine measures were taken and the situation was under control.</p> <p>IOM representative informed that two mobile teams were operational doing awareness raising at local level, providing support to NGOs working on both banks of Nistru in the work with vulnerable refugees and third country nationals (9 NGOs), as well as continuing working together with La Strada on the information campaign.</p> <p>UNHCR informed about the information session for adolescents, conducted on the occasion of the World Day against Trafficking in Human Beings on 30 July. The session was</p>	<p>All relevant state agencies to provide inputs for the report on implementation of the GRETA's recommendations by 17 August</p>



	<p>organized by UNHCR, La Strada and Moldova for Peace in the Community Centre of Moldova for Peace in Chisinau.</p> <p>On 10 August, UNHCR together with the Centre of Combatting Trafficking in Persons, delivered a training session on trafficking in persons, types of THB and key trafficking indicators for frontline officers at the Palanca bus station. UNHCR expressed gratitude to the Centre for their support and quick response in arranging the training, which was important due to increase of suspected cases of TIP at the Palanca bus station.</p> <p>La Strada informed about visiting RACs and communication with refugees on THB risks. A guide regarding the identification of victims and presumed victims of trafficking in human beings within mixed migration flows was currently developed together with the key state agencies' specialists.</p> <p>A new La Strada expert Ms Doina Casacu was introduced to the Task Force members.</p>	
Agenda Point 5	<p>AoB and wrap-up</p> <p>The State Chancellery's representative informed that upon finalization the Action Plan would be translated into English and disseminated to all Task Force members. Extension of the AP beyond 2022 could be considered. The institutions to submit additional proposals for the AP by 17 August.</p> <p>The next meeting of the Task Force to be held in person.</p>	<p>State Chancellery to finalize the Action Plan, to translate it in English and disseminate to the Task Force members</p> <p>The institutions to submit additional proposals for the AP by 17 August.</p>