
PSEA Network meeting - Romania
19 January 2023, 10.00 – 11.00 (held in hybrid mode)

Participants: UNHCR, Tdh, IOM, Salvati Copiii, ADRA, Caritas, Amurtel, Patrir, ACF, CARE, Oxfam, Clear Global

Introductions and Updates from participants

- The new members introduced themselves.
- UNHCR shared that it is in the process of finalizing the capacity-development plan with partners. An invitation was extended to use and share recently produced PSEA visibility materials. Also, UNHCR is rolling out a training for staff in February.
- CARE is organizing a ToT for implementing partners in February in Romania and Moldova. They recently conducted a survey and mapped the needs for their implementing partners and FONPC members. Additionally, they will finalize a safeguarding manual in the next 2 months.
- Amurtel is launching a social media campaign using Telegram for PSEA messaging.
- Co-lead of the PSEA Network recommended to provide inputs for the recently published National PoA for Anti-trafficking and PSEA and share them with the Romanian Government.

Update on the National Plan of Action on Anti-Trafficking and PSEA

- The National Plan of Action on Anti-Trafficking and PSEA was made public in January 2023. The co-lead of the PSEA Network highlighted that the Romanian Government indicated in previous exchanges their commitment to include a few PSEA related actions, albeit the main focus of the Plan of Action will be anti-trafficking efforts. The current plan shows that the government took note of recommendations and included PSEA actions such as the development of a safeguarding policy and code of conduct in the transit centres and the creation of a vetting system for aid workers.
- The plan was reviewed and discussed, and members were invited to submit any additional inputs or requests for clarifications by end of Monday, 23.01 to the co-leads.

Update from the first meeting of the Regional PSEA Network meeting

- The first meeting of the Regional Network on PSEA and Safeguarding took place on January 13th. The main goal of the Regional Network is to support national PSEA networks, maintain attention and visibility to PSEA and safeguarding work, and enhance regional exchange and good practices. The co-chairs are UNHCR and Save the Children. The geographical coverage corresponds to that of the Regional Refugee Response Plan, *i.e.*, neighboring states hosting significant numbers of persons fleeing Ukraine. It does *not* cover PSEA inside of Ukraine, which is coordinated by OCHA and UNFPA under the Cluster system. On participation, the network aims to bring together colleagues working in regional functions and/or covering several countries, as well as the co-chairs of the national PSEA networks. Actors working in only one country are of course welcome, but participation in the national PSEA networks should be prioritized, as this is where activities in country are coordinated.

- Prior to the meeting, a PSEA/Safeguarding survey was circulated with participants with the aim of understanding how the Regional Network can support efforts in the field. Based on the survey responses, the areas of strongest value for the Regional Network included: Regional communications and awareness raising campaigns; Advocacy (host states and donors); Training and capacity building; Sharing and documenting good practices. Participants were then split into 4 groups under each thematic area in order to propose common activities and priorities that will constitute the draft workplan for 2023 of the Regional Network. The co-chairs will work on this and present a proposal at the next meeting.
- Meetings of the Regional Network will be held on a monthly basis. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 14 February 2023.

Discussion on the PSEA Network Action Plan for 2023

- A review of the PSEA Network Action Plan for 2022 was conducted with the purpose of establishing the progress of tasks, what actions should be continued in 2023 and identifying the remaining urgent actions from 2022 which should be completed. Generally speaking, most of the actions set under each task was initiated and some progress was achieved or was fully implemented.
- In terms of Management and Coordination, a suggestion was made to update the established minimum standards on PSEA for the Network. This will be done through a survey drafted by UNHCR in the first quarter of 2023. Resources in PSEA Network online repository were shared by different members and will continue to be updated. Capacity support to the members was provided either through presentations (e.g., investigations, safe recruitment), ToTs, and peer exchange and it will remain ongoing. A suggestion was put forward to develop a format/package on how to conduct awareness raising on PSEA with the host communities. Finally, regarding training, it was mentioned that 697 people were trained on PSEA last year including authorities and CSOs.
- On the Engagement with the affected population task, common information materials such as posters and videos were produced and disseminated but to continue the efforts. Consultation with affected populations on SEA to inform ongoing risk assessment and preferred channels of complaint and feedback was partially conducted. In this sense, FGDs were carried out in several cities (Galati, Satu Mare, Baia Mare, Bucharest) to assess the level of awareness on SEA. For 2023, a priority in the first half will be to conduct a risk assessment on SEA.
- Regarding Prevention, awareness sessions with staff and volunteers was carried out and it will remain ongoing. However, the activity is not coordinated at the level of the PSEA Network and not regularly reported. Not much data available regarding the PSEA risk mitigation integrated in programme design. One action point will be to have the members fill out the self-assessments.
- In terms of the Response task, a decision was made not to move forward with the SEA interagency complaint and feedback mechanism. The mapping of complaint and feedback mechanisms with PSEA Network members was conducted, but it will remain ongoing for updates. The referral pathway to facilitate access to services for victims was completed.

- On Monitoring and Reporting, the implementation of the PSEA work plan 2022 was tracked and it will continue to be done for the 2023 plan as well at the end of Q2.
- Advocacy on PSEA with authorities was carried out for the entirety of 2022 either by the PSEA Network or members on an individual basis. Key achievements were the introduction of actions in the NP on Anti-trafficking and PSEA such as development of the safeguarding policy/ code of conduct for the accommodation centre and the vetting mechanism for volunteers. These will become urgent action points for the PSEA Network in 2023 and included in the work plan.
- A jamboard was shared with the members to suggest activities to the PSEA Network Action Plan for 2023 - https://jamboard.google.com/d/1pK0bLPzKR1XNwgf_9UaBciORPociWWfSIHnrVxY-z6E/viewer?f=6

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- It was suggested the idea of organizing a national media campaign for awareness raising purposes, particularly when a milestone is achieved by the PSEA Network and the Romanian Government
- It was highlighted the need for awareness raising on PSEA with refugees from Ukraine and training with small and less-resourced NGOs
- UNHCR to provide clarification on the opportunities of funding for investigations by the IASC

Next Steps

- Next meeting on the 16th of February. – Third Thursday of the month
- Members to share inputs for the National PoA on Anti-trafficking and PSEA by 23.01. The co-chairs will then compile the inputs and consolidate everything in one final document to be shared with the Romanian Government
- Members were encouraged to inform the co-chairs about interest/need in having another PSEA ToT