

Background

The overarching principles guiding the Poland Protection and Solutions strategy consists of 1) the centrality and mainstreaming of protection; 2) a government-led response supported by the Protection Sector members to ensure coherence, sustainability and avoid duplications; 3) transition from an initial emergency response towards self-reliance and inclusion; and 4) ongoing preparedness for potential influxes.

Within the framework of the Regional Refugee Response Plan (RRP), the Protection Sector members in Poland have joined efforts to conduct evidence-based advocacy, provide protection centred services and multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance to refugees from Ukraine, third country nationals and stateless persons seeking safety, other persons in need, and impacted host communities.

Goal of the Protection Sector

The Protection Sector promotes coherent, predictable and protection centered policies, legislation, practices and programs to respond to the needs and risks affecting refugees from Ukraine, including third country national and stateless persons with due considerations for their age, gender and diversity.

Objectives of the Protection Sector

1. **Joint protection analysis:** Protection monitoring, and protection assessments are central to evidence-based advocacy and shall be the basis for programming. The Sector is responsible to ensure that all initiatives aiming at collecting, processing, and analyzing protection information are coordinated. This includes producing joint analysis and recommendations.
2. **Advocacy:** The Protection Sector members shall work together on the identification of advocacy gaps across all protection areas and developing appropriate advocacy messages and tools to influence policies, legislation and practices through engagement with relevant stakeholders.
3. **Technical guidance:** The Protection Sector, provides technical guidance to all operational actors on the ground to ensure protection is mainstreamed across all programmatic interventions, in line with international, European and national standards. Relevant taskforces may be activated as needed with separate Terms of Reference, in line with the Protection Sector's objectives, including on key protection aspects namely child protection, prevention and response to gender based violence, prevention and response to trafficking as well as non-discrimination.
4. **Knowledge-sharing:** The Protection Sector is responsible for knowledge management and capacity sharing when areas of cooperation are identified and to ensure that protection responses are of high quality and sufficiently contextualized.

Principles and definitions

The work of the Protection Sector shall be guided by the main Principles of Partnership, namely:

- Equality
- Transparency
- Results-oriented approach
- Responsibility

- Complementarity

The activities of members of the Protection Sector shall be guided by the **Protection Principles** contained in the Humanitarian Charter and Minimum Standards in Humanitarian Response, namely:

- **Do-no-harm:** avoiding exposing people to further harm because of your actions as well as protect people from physical and psychological harm arising from violence and coercion.
- **Impartiality:** providing assistance in line with the identified needs and without discrimination.
- **Claiming rights:** assisting refugees to claim their rights, access available remedies and recover from the effects of abuse.

Geographical Coverage and engagement with other forums

The Protection Sector has a national, country-wide coverage providing strategic direction and guidance to all actors engaged in the response to support the Government of Poland and national actors, in its efforts to respond the needs of all refugees, stateless persons and other persons of concern fleeing Ukraine. The Protection Sector engages with the established and operational sub-national Protection forums in Krakow, Lublin and Rzeszow on protection issues, particularly regarding contextualized protection analysis and advocacy. Updates from the sub-national forums are shared with Protection Sector. The Protection Sector also engages and seeks to seek interfaces with the NGO Forum '[Forum Razem](#)':

Membership and Chairing

The Protection Sector is co-chaired by UNHCR and Halina Niec. The coordination of each thematic area is managed by: UNICEF, FDDS and UNHCR for Child Protection; UNHCR and CPK for GBV; IOM for Third Country Nationals and Counter Trafficking; UNHCR and WHO for MHPSS.

The Protection Sector emphasises the recognition of the government-led response in Poland and therefore aims to support the Polish Government, as well as national NGOs efforts within the response. As such, Protection Sector membership is open to all partners (including UN agencies and other international organizations, international and national NGOs, civil society organisations and Academia) which are currently or planning to be engaged in the actual delivery of protection, child protection, prevention and response to gender based violence (GBV), counter trafficking, MHPSS services as part of their humanitarian response to needs of all refugees, stateless persons and other persons of concern fleeing Ukraine in Poland. Donors can be invited to participate in the Protection Sector meetings as agreed upon by Members. Government authority representatives may be invited from time to time and as relevant to contribute to meetings, to directly engage with Protection Sector members.

Meeting and Reporting

The Protection Sector will convene twice a month in a hybrid modality, on the **2nd and 4th Thursday, at 2pm:**

- **The first meeting-** on the 2nd Thursday of the month - will be dedicated to Protection, Child Protection, Third Country Nationals;
- **The second meeting** – on the 4th Thursday- will address Protection, GBV, Counter Trafficking and MHPSS*.

The Child Protection, GBV, Third Country Nationals, Counter Trafficking and MHPSS WG and Sub-Sectors may convene separate technical discussions, whose outcomes shall be shared in the Protection Sector. Ad-hoc meetings may be called at short notice in case of specific issues that

require immediate attention. Minutes of the Protection Sector meetings will be circulated by the Protection Sector leads among all members in a timely manner.

*MHPSS - only when protection aspects require discussion outside Health Sector.

The meetings will have structured time slots corresponding to each of the relevant thematic areas as well as a dedicated time lot for general protection issues. Meeting minutes are circulated among members within a reasonable time frame after the meeting and will, dependent on available capacity, be translated into Polish. Translation will be provided online (Zoom link), with the possibility of scheduling in person meeting, with interpretation depending on the topics and interest from Protection Sector members.

Communication

Overall communication is managed by the Protection Sector, whereas technical communication is managed by the Child Protection, GBV, Third Country Nationals, Counter Trafficking, MHPSS WG and Sub-Sectors coordinators in their respective thematic areas. All partners have access to all information and are welcome to choose their level of participation.

Revision of Terms of Reference

The terms of reference guiding the structure and activities of the Protection Sector will be revised every six months and/or based on immediate needs as agreed by the members.