

Poland Child Protection Sub Sector
Country-level Warsaw - Meeting Minutes

Date: 12 July 2023

Chaired by	Joud Munwar (UNICEF), Renata Szredzińska (FDDS), Julie Elise Gaunt (UNHCR)	
Time & Location	Wednesday 10.30-12, hybrid (online & UNHCR Conference Room 3)	
Participants	UNHCR, UNICEF, FDDS, IRC, ICRC, SAVE, DRC, Project Hope, Caritas, Polki Moga Wszystko, PSAR, SIP	
Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates from the Case Management Task Force (UNICEF); • Update on draft CP legislation currently being reviewed by parliament (FDDS); • Updates from members on current priority areas and planned interventions; • Discussion on CP coordination moving forwards; • AOB 	
1. Updates from the Case Management Task Force (UNICEF)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • So far in 2023, the CMTF has focused on mapping how humanitarian actors, including international organizations, can complement the work of national social services in Poland; • Efforts to involve MFoS in the process continue and the CMTF ToR will be finalized once there is a clearer picture of the modalities through which national child protection authorities will choose to engage. 	<u>Action Points:</u> N/A
2. Update on draft CP legislation currently being reviewed by parliament (FDDS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Child Protection Bill introducing key amendments to current legislation is being processed through parliament. • The new law includes provisions for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The development of two national, multi-year strategies: one on counteracting abuse and violence against children; and the other focused on counteracting sexual abuse. Work on the first is still in preliminary stages, while work on the second has already entered consultation stages. b. An obligation for all organizations working with children to implement safeguarding policies and standards, including criminal background checks for all employees. 	<u>Action points:</u> None at this time – but it will be interesting to consider how the CP sub sector can contribute to shaping the dialogue around the implementation of the draft legislation if/once it has passed into law.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Obligation on judges to hear the child in family court proceedings (or to justify the decision not to do so); d. Implementation of periodic, obligatory trainings for judges; e. New tools and procedures for social workers and police, when conducting risk assessments for children at risk of violence or neglect; f. Obligation for the court to inform child survivors and their families when a perpetrator has finished their sentence and is due for release; g. Serious case reviews to be conducted by an independent committee and to included scrutiny of actions by all actors including social services and related child protection service providers. 	
<p>3. Updates from members on current priority areas and planned interventions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - IRC – CP and GBV activities in Warsaw and Katowice; protection monitoring and pilot of CP monitoring (focus on Warsaw, Poznan and Katowice so far); - ICRC – Work continues on the restoration of family links; a monitoring visit to Hotel Ossa is planned to share information re: family reunification. - DRC – are implementing Child Protection programming (including child friendly spaces, mobile teams etc.) in Gdynia, Warsaw, Wroclaw, Rzeszow - FDSS – work is focused on the new law and particularly on the aspects related to safeguarding standards; strengthening the child advocacy centers for child victims (already in 10 places; looking for 2 more); ensuring the continuation of the two national CP helplines; - Caritas Polska – support a number of facilities for evacuated children from institutions; are running summer camps for children from UKR; scholarship programs; implementation of safeguarding standards; - Save the Children – scale up of support to evacuated children and their caregivers, including case management services; - Polki Moga Wszystko – continuation of current activities to support Ukranian children and youth (including MHPSS and legal advice). 	<p><u>Action Point:</u> 5Ws (led by UNICEF)</p>

<p>4. Discussion on CP coordination moving forwards</p>	<p>1. <u>Change of Sub Sector Co-Lead</u> – after 16 months providing much valued leadership, FDDS has expressed the wish to step down from the role of co-lead of the sub sector. Members of the sub sector are invited to express their interest in stepping into the role. The long term vision is to work towards the more extensive involvement of the MoFSP in the work and leadership of the sub sector and respective task forces.</p> <p>2. <u>Suggested priorities for joint work as a sub sector moving forward:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reviewing and, where necessary, strengthening the implementation of referral pathways (mindful of data protection/GDPR compliance issues). - Strengthening coordination on advocacy messaging and actions, including building an evidence-base on core issues – for example in analyzing gaps in access to services and support for displaced children and their families; - Timely exchange of information to avoid duplication in activities, with particular attention to programming and implementation cycles; - Consolidated coordination around awareness raising related to safeguarding, including mechanisms through which to measure behavioral change; - Harmonize understanding/approaches to support for parents and caregivers as primary agent of protection; - Joint thinking around how to ensure that community-based activities/interventions are truly community based, less top down, more sustainable. 	<p><u>Action points:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - UNHCR to reach out to regional colleagues to try to organize a working session on data protection as it relates to CP referral pathways and protocols. - UNICEF to recirculate the link to the sub sector Sharepoint. Members to review the content of the shared folder of documents and resources. - 5 Ws (as above). - Save the Children to share information about their Safe Families Approach.
<p>5. AOB</p>	<p>3. Meeting will take place every first Wednesday of the month from 10.00-12.00; next meeting will take place on 6th September due to summer break.</p>	<p>N/A</p>