Regional Refugee Response for the Ukraine Situation

Protection Working Group (PWG)

Meeting Details	
Date	*25 March 2026*
Time	*14:00 – 15:30 (hybrid)*
Co-chairs	*Vanessa Bordin, GBV Officer (Localization), UNHCR* *Violeta Terguta, Programme Analyst on GBV, UNFPA* *Carolina Sclifos, Senior Child Protection Associate, UNHCR* *Flore Rossi, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF* *Sean Sager, Protection Officer, UNHCR* *Victor Morari, Office of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Moldova*
Reporting	*Tereza Sikorová, UNFPA Moldova sikorova@unfpa.org*
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Talking points / Agenda	
1. Presentation by the European Union Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) the report *Seeking Safety from War – Violence and rights abuses against women from Ukraine*. 2. Presentation by Keystone on *Disability Mapping in Moldova* 3. Protection updates 4. Child Protection updates	
Participants	

Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR	*Tatiana Danilescu, UNICEF*	*Roman Russu, CNAM*	*Oxana Buzovici, The Union for Equity*
Violeta Terguta, UNFPA	*Matylda Pogorzelska*	*Tatiana Cernomorit*	*and Health*
Sergiu Gaina, UNHCR	*Victor Morari, Ombudsman Office*	*Rei Sulo, IOM*	*Irina Vrancean, CDA*
Angeliki Kourtesi, UNHCR	*Casey O'Neill, CWS*	*Corina Gribincea, Keystone Moldova*	*Andrei Pavlenco, NP Women's*
Sara Sivkova, UNHCR	*Olga Cimpan, IMPACT*	*Olga Morozan, Pestalozzi Children's*	*Initiatives*
Carolina Sclifos, UNHCR	*Sami Nevala, FRA*	*Foundation*	*Svetlana Albina, UN Women*
Cristina Triboi, Terre des Hommes	*Petru Lupu, UNFPA*	*Antonina Comerzan, AVE Copiii*	*Valentina Bodrug-Lungu, Gender-*
Natalia Morosanuu, Caritas Moldova	*Olesia Skoryk, ACTED*	*Natalia Moisevici, IOM*	*Centru*
Katerina Rohanova, UNHCR	*Ruth del Pino, OSCE*	*Valentina Ghenciu, LUMOS*	*Marin Chihai, Caritas*
Sabina Sandu, UNHCR	*Hannah McMillen*	*Irina Stefan, Laolalta*	
Tereza Sikorova, UNFPA	*Florynska Olha, UN Human Rights*	*Natalia Curnic, UNHCR*	

Some online participants did not share their name or their organizations in the chat.

Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
Introduction *Vanessa Bordin, GBV Officer (Localization), UNHCR* *bordin@unhcr.org*	This **PWG was led by the GBV SWG co-chair, Vanessa Bordin (GBV Officer (Localization), UNHCR).** The PWG co-chair welcomed participants and thanked them for their presence.	
Presentation by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights (FRA) of the report Seeking Safety from War – Violence and rights abuses against women from Ukraine	**Survey demographic:** Women aged 18–74 displaced from Ukraine since 24 February 2022 and residing in Czechia, Germany, or Poland. Approximately 400 interviews conducted per country by female staff trained in privacy, safety, and neutrality. **Context:** EU activated the Temporary Protection Directive in 2022 (expected to end in March 2027). It allows displaced people from Ukraine to live and work in the EU. The directive includes measures for victims of conflict-related violence to have access to support. **Key findings:** • Over 1.8 million women were under EU temporary protection by the end of 2025. • Ukrainian women struggle to access reproductive and mental health care services. • Nearly one in four women from Ukraine have encountered potentially exploitative offers of transport, housing or work.	

	• Women displaced by the war face high rates of physical, sexual and psychological violence, even once in the EU. • Nearly one in four women encountered sexual cyber harassment - a higher rate than among women in the EU overall. • Many who have experienced violence do not get help or reach out for the support they are entitled to. • Only 3 % of women who experienced sexual harassment since the start of the war reported incidents to the police. **FRA recommendations in following areas (detailed in the report):** • Ensure international protection for displaced women • Provide support in a safe manner • Prevent and address exploitation and trafficking in human beings • Respond effectively to physical, sexual and psychological violence • Respond effectively to sexual cyber harassment • Provide access to effective victim support services • Facilitate crime reporting **Link to the report:** Seeking Safety from War – Violence and rights abuses against women from Ukraine	

Presentation of the report: Mapping of Refugees with disabilities in Moldova (December 2025)	• On 8th of April a round table will be organized by Keystone on the report. • 2,633 Ukrainian refugees with disabilities in Moldova: 40% (1,040) in Chisinau, 15% in Ocnita (417 individuals), 5% in the Left Bank. • A significant share of refugees with disabilities lives outside Chisinau, particularly in the northern regions. This uneven distribution adds pressure on local services and calls for tailored, coordinated solutions at the local level. • Older persons and women with disabilities often balance functional limitations with caregiving responsibilities, they are especially vulnerable to becoming isolated and losing their independence. • Access to basic healthcare has improved since 2022, but access to specialised services, such as rehabilitation, assistive devices, costly medication, and mental health care, remains limited. • Transport proved to be the biggest challenge across interviews. • Working-age refugees with disabilities often mentioned that they want to work and contribute, but they face major barriers to employment. • Across sectors, the findings suggest that more efforts are needed to improve access to accessible housing, transport, rehabilitation services, and assistive devices, as key elements for supporting independence and participation. Link to the report: Mapping of Refugees with Disability	

Temporary Protection updates	• 40,500 applications as of 24 of March 2026.
	• Rural areas lag behind: 27% vs 40% urban.
	• Lowest progress: UTAG 17%, Taraclia 18%, Glodeni 19%.
	• Largest gaps: Chisinau, UTAG, Ocnita, Balti, Tiraspol.
	• Older people (60+) remain under-represented.
	• TP Extension: ~46% of registered individuals have applied, representing 6,000 more than government projections.
	• New applicants: 2,000–3,000 first-time applications since 1 February; current rhythm suggests 12,000–15,000 applicants by year-end.
	• Proposal: Formation of a task force with interested organizations to monitor and align the authority response with needs.
	• In forums and social networks requests from people about alternatives to TP are growing considering this is the last extension.
	• Q&A
	  ○ Violeta Terguta (UNFPA) asked about gaps in reaching people with disabilities and Roma communities. Response: Databases were cross-checked with Keystone to identify and refer unregistered individuals to CDA. Roma communities were consulted on outreach; those with accessibility issues often rely on relatives or partners.
	  ○ Tatiana Danilescu (UNICEF) inquired about mandatory fingerprinting for children over 14. Response: 2,000–3,000 bookings suggest the size of this age group.
	  ○ Total child applicants for TP comprise approximately 21–22% of the 40,000 total.	

Child Protection updates	• MHPSS needs remain for children. • Referral to social services continues - gaps for CWD and access of personal assistance. • Roma children at risk due to RAC consolidation process: monitoring of the most vulnerable families and ensuring linkages with healthcare system and education system after relocation. • Bilateral agreement between Moldova and Ukraine on repatriation of children was ratified by the Parliament. Support needed for BID trainings and implementation of the treaty. • AVE Copiii is continuing to provide case management for children at risk and assist UASC with the temporary protection renewal process. 40% of TP renewal applications requests are for children (as of 6 March 2026). • Adolescent boys who aged out and their parents have expressed concerns regarding visits to the IGM office, citing fears related to potential military conscription in Ukraine. Clear communication from Protection Working Group partners is encouraged to mitigate this issue.	
Refugee Accommodation Centres updates	**From 18 remaining RACS:** 10 scheduled to close by end of 2026 **Groups of closure:** 3 RACs March-April, 3 RACs May-June, 4 RACs July-September	
Multi-Purpose Cash Assistance Programme updates	• Currently targeting around 10 000 individuals (mainly women), 35% children, 30% older persons, 68% with specific needs. • Caseload by April will be around 6,000 individuals due to financial constraints. • Reassessment process includes household vulnerability assessment, scoring and eligibility determination. No-show management (8% rate) and excluded households are referred to available services.	

	• Profile of potential excluded households (based on data from November 2025): ○ 4000 individuals (2,027 households). ○ 67% female (due to demographics). ○ 61% specific needs (chronic diseases 22%, older persons 21%, serious medical conditions 15%, disabilities 14%, single-parent households 12%). ○ 86% use coping strategies. Notably, 36% skipping debt repayments, 3% poorer shelter, 2% using sensitive coping mechanisms such as child labour, begging and school dropouts). ○ Anticipated protection risks: housing instability, healthcare access, exploitation and labour risks, unsafe returns.	