

UKRAINE REFUGEE RESPONSE
Regional Sub-Working Group on Child Protection
Meeting Minutes – 26 April 2022

Meeting objective:	Discuss the pertinent child protection (CP) issues at the regional level and the work of CP coordination structures established at the field level in Hungary, Moldova Poland, Romania and Slovakia.
Time & location:	Every second Monday, starting 25 April, at 15:00-16:15, online
Participants:	Daniel Redondo, IOM Philippa Smith, IOM Caroline Dulin Brass, UNHCR Sergii Lavrukhin, UNHCR Danielle Beasley, UNHCR Richelle Haines, UNHCR Olga Vorontsova-Mykhailova, UNHCR Vera Dragovic-O'Donnell, UNHCR Aron Greenberg, UNICEF Anna Knutzen, UNICEF Katharine Williamson, Save the Children Victoria Abolsky, IsraAid Zuzanna Jarosinska, Happy Kids Foundation
Agenda:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Introductions (tour de table) 2) Regional child protection challenges and priorities (including RRP) 3) Presentation and discussion on ToRs 4) AOB
AGENDA POINT	DISCUSSION
1) Introduction	UNHCR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warm welcome to all the participants. • CP SWG is being established under Regional Protection Working Group under RCF • It mirrors CP coordination structures in countries neighbouring Ukraine and acts as support hub to them, also ensures consistency of the response to this situation which is widely described as an emergency of women and children. • UNHCR (Caroline Dulin Brass dulin@unhcr.org) and UNICEF (Anna Knutzen aknutzen@unicef.org) are the Co-Chairs of CP SWG.

<p>2) Regional child protection challenges and priorities</p>	<p>UNHCR:</p> <p>Numbers: Up-to-date numbers are available on the data portal for Ukraine situation; almost 3 million in Poland, more than 790,000 in Romania, over half a million in Hungary, over 437,000 in Moldova, over 360,000 in Slovakia – these countries are referred to as frontline countries.</p> <p>Key concerns:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> the crisis is known as “family separation crisis”; 90% of all arrivals are women and children; it is the fastest developing refugee crisis since WWII; lack of systematic registration; capacities of CP institutions and care structures are overstretched; access to health services and MHPSS are also of concern. <p>Key opportunities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> response from government, CSOs and the public at large are overwhelming, coupled with the solidarity movement; TPD as a novelty; response from volunteers and a wide range of grassroots organisations took the main burden of the first response; UN agencies are able to scale up the response, including in terms of the CP staff; presence of CSOs in frontline countries; quick deployment of the Blue Dots. <p>Priorities in the response:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Support safe onward movements (30,000 supported so far); Support Blue Dots; Cash assistance; Support to national CP systems; Implementation of TPD and in line with EU 10-point plan; CP coordination (in support to Govt response, in close cooperation with frontline organisations) at country-level; Regional CP coordination (SWG). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agenda for Action and the EU 10-point plan are the main reference documents. Regional CP SWG does not cover the situation in Ukraine, although it requires exchange of information across the border; the scope of “frontline countries” has broadened meanwhile. Country-level CP SWG reporting to PWG and AT TF and PSEA network once they are in place in a given country is the usual practice. <p>UNICEF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary numbers in Poland indicate high number of UASC. Because of TPD, Ukrainians are channeled into a different realm of services, so aid agencies have been figuring out what that meant in terms of gaps, impact on local children, etc. UNHCR and UNICEF developed a CHILDREN FLEEING UKRAINE – THE ADVOCACY AGENDA FOR ACTION – this document defines 9 key actions to support the children: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> End the hostilities and protect women and children from the effects of war. Provide safety to children and families by keeping borders open, maintaining access to asylum and protection, ensuring timely
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	<p>identification of children at risk.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Safeguard children and their families from any type of violence, xenophobia, and discrimination in host communities. 4. Immediately provide for children’s basic needs, including health and psychosocial support. 5. Ensure safe, child-friendly reception and housing arrangements for children and families. 6. Keep families together, ensure family tracing and do what it takes to reunite families. 7. Ensure children and young people have immediate access to education, training opportunities and support to rebuild their lives. 8. Prepare for the future and accelerate refugee inclusion. 9. Engage children and young people, safely and ethically, as key actors and partners in shaping the response – and work with youth- and refugee-led organisations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regarding the national care systems, it would be great to get input from participants on how to include local/regional organisations into CP coordination structures. <p>Isra Aid:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating CFS in World Expo and Sanatorium (Moldova). • Training local NGOs in carrying activities with children. • Considering initiation of teenage and youth groups, within participatory approach. <p>Save the Children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are a number of CP groups, e.g. La Strada, also groups looking at anti-trafficking specifically; may be good to map these groups and see how to connect. They have been coming together and providing CP advocacy. • Separation and the ability to identify UASC from the start are major issues, along with trying to locate those who have moved across borders further into Europe already. <p>IOM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence in Ukraine but also in neighbouring countries. • Happy to support with mapping of CP groups/institutions. • TCNs should also be included in the discussions since there are TCN minors identified who are unaccompanied.
3) Discussion on ToR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ToR for the Regional CP SWG has been drafted by UNICEF and UNHCR together; it focuses on support to CP SWGs at country-level, links with other coordination structures, membership, technical and policy guidance, support to standards of CP across the region, etc. • Planning to include strategic and operational partners in the regional CP SWG.

4) AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional CP SWG will meet on biweekly basis initially, then may decide to switch to weekly. Meeting every fortnight initially allows the national CP structures to do their work on coordination and come back with priorities and challenges for discussion.
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No.	Action	FP	Status
1.	Members to come back with any additional comments on the ToR within a week's time.	Caroline/Anna	ongoing
2.	Members to suggest CP networks to map and organisations/individuals to join in the regional CP SWG.	RBE/Caroline, Vera	ongoing
3.	UNHCR to circulate meeting minute, recording, the ToR and proposed list of participants to the group members.	RBE/Caroline, Vera	pending