

Inter-Agency Coordination

Moldova

Meeting subject:	Moldova Protection Working Group Meeting
Time & location:	13 July 2022, Zoom and in person, UNHCR office, str. Sfatul Tarii 29, 8 th floor
Chaired by:	Andrew Painter, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR
Participants:	Joint Crisis Management Centre, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, Refugees Helpline, OHCHR, UNFPA, UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, IOM, IsraAID, ICRC, Plan International, CDA, CRS, DRC, Caritas, ECHO, INTERSOS, HelpAge International, People in Need, IRC Balkans, IRC Moldova, Humanity and Inclusion, INTERSOS, Terre des Hommes, CWS, Mercy Corps, Operation Orphan, SDC, CERI, ADRA, Concordia.

AGENDA

1. Welcome
2. Announcements
 - CBP announcement
 - Trafficking in person Task Force announcement
 - Other announcements
3. Two planned Blue Dots, where we stand and the way forward
4. Discussion on the activity of the Protection Working Group
5. Close

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AGENDA POINT	DISCUSSION
1	<p>Welcome</p> <p>The PWG chair welcomed the participants, thanked them for their presence and encouraged participants to attend in person for future meetings, if they feel comfortable doing so. He presented the agenda of the meeting and asked the participants to present themselves and the activity of their organizations.</p>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Announcements <p>a) UNHCR's Community Based Protection Officer reminded participants that AAP Task Force meetings are taking place in person every other Friday at 12.00 pm. Interested partners are welcomed to join the meetings. To be on the mailing list, please send an email to Olga Bitca at: bitca@unhcr.org</p> <p>The current activities of the AAP Task Force are related to multisectoral needs assessments inputs and other ongoing surveys, providing inputs on AAP indicators, verifying how information is distributed to refugees and discussing how to improve monitoring activities.</p> <p>Mercy Corps' representative suggested a hybrid format of AAP meetings. UNHCR's CBP Officer promised to take this into consideration for future meetings.</p> <p>b) UNHCR's antitrafficking specialist updated colleagues on the creation and the functioning of the Trafficking in Person Task Force in a hybrid format, with meetings every other Thursday. The Task Force is co-chaired by IOM, UNHCR and the State Chancellery. Partners include government sectoral ministries, specialized NGOs, and agencies providing victim services. The Task Force is currently developing its work plan based on the four anti-trafficking pillars: prevention, protection, partnership, and prosecution. The Task Force has integrated into its work recommendations from OSCE and GRETA, both entities part of the Council of Europe.</p>

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	<p>Under the prevention pillar, the Task Force is disseminating information, including on new trends in online exploitation and harmful content on different on-line platforms, such as job announcements. A training plan is in preparation to better coordinate trainings offered by various partners.</p> <p>Persons interested persons in joining the Trafficking in Person Task Force should send an email to Olga Bitca at: bitca@unhcr.org</p> <p>c) UNFPA’s representative presented an update of GBV SWG activities. These included cooperation of the Sub-Working Group with the Cash Group on a GBV cash risk analysis, to identify risks in the area of cash support, including the impact of cash on data protection and social norms. A workshop on safety in RACs will be organized on Thursday and all interested persons are invited to participate.</p> <p>d) The UNHCR chair presented an update on behalf of the CP SWG. Recent activities included a UNICEF-UNHCR technical mission from their respective Headquarters to review CP case management tools in Moldova. The mission assessed CP case management tools in place (CPIMS, progress, UAHelp), their interoperability, and how best to meet the short-term needs of the Government in managing child protection cases. to adapt or modify the CP platform.</p>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two planned Blue Dots, where we stand and the way forward <p>UNHCR’s Blue Dots coordinator informed the WG that two new Blue Dots will be opening under UNHCR’s coordination: one in the Moldova for Peace Community Centre, where a Child Safe Space and mother-baby corner are already available and PSS and GBV services will be available soon, and another one with CCR in the Temporary Accommodation Centre which will be activated in 1-2 weeks.</p> <p>UNICEF’s representative added that two more Blue Dots are in preparation, one at Arctico Centre with Terre des Hommes, as a partner, where a Child Safe Space and mother-baby corner will be available, and another one with the NGO CNFACEM as a partner. In total, there are now 7 working Blue Dots with 2 more in the near future under UNICEF coordination. Soon more than 10 Blue Dots will be available in the country.</p>

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	<p>UNFPA's representative noted the importance of coordination between the activities of the Blue Dots and Orange Space, including working on SOPs to ensure complementarity in services.</p>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion on the activity of the Protection Working Group <p>a) The UNHCR chair noted that the efficiency of the Protection Working Group is a priority. Many protection activities are underway and needs are high, both for refugees and host communities. Coordination is crucial to move in the same direction with a common strategy and workplan. There are many specialized sub working groups and task forces under the umbrella of the PWG, such as CP, GBV, AAP, Roma, Antitrafficking and Disability. The chair asked the participants on their vision of the activity of the PWG.</p> <p>The INTERSOS representative responded that the PWG is not only for coordination, but also to raise concerns and challenges encountered at the field level. She noted the specific issue of persons with mental disability travelling alone who are unable to make fully informed decisions on their future. The representative asked about the national regulation on such situations. OHCHR reminded PWG members of hotline for persons with disabilities under Keystone's management and that a mobile team can assess the needs of individual refugees and provide services or referrals to a certain extent. UNFPA's representative also noted that Blue Dots and Orange Spaces have social workers who can provide some services, as well as refer cases.</p> <p>DRC's representative raised three points on the PWG's activities and asked how they can be improved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• While the Government is a natural counterpart to co-chair the PWG, it has been very passive on the protection side to date. Greater participation by NGOs in coordination structures.• There is a need to engage more local NGO partners, as they do not consider PWG meetings as useful to them.• The protection sector should be a voice for the refugee response as a whole. We need to think about who is really vulnerable and what is the plan for the longer-term response.

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Mercy Corps' representative agreed on the points raised by the DRC and recommended to move the discussion towards more long-term advocacy positions, as the country is quite fragile compared to its neighbours. Mercy Corps also encouraged that the PWG be used as a space for policy related discussion, for example, on limitations in funding for local NGOs, limitations on the engagement of the Government, and on the situation of the Roma.

The People in Need representative agreed that the transition from an emergency response is challenging and pointed out that many organisations are not aware about information that has been prepared. She emphasized the need to localize our protection activities, particularly on referral pathways, as they can be difficult for people in the field to use.

Helpline's representative raised the issue of lack of accommodation places in Chisinau RACs, especially for undocumented or partially documented single men. Noting the new system of "RAC of the week", he noted that RACs in Chisinau are generally closed for reception, and that there is currently no designated RAC for Chisinau. The closest RAC to Chisinau is in Cojusna, but there is no public transportation after 8-9 pm.

- b) With regards to the work of the PWG, the UNHCR representative noted that the Terms of Reference, drafted on 14 April, as well as the PWG Strategy and Workplan, are available. UNHCR will share them again for inputs, with hopes to have a meaningful discussion on them and to have a common direction in the work of the PWG. The documents can be developed or modified as necessary.
- c) The UNHCR chair asked for views on having the Office of the Ombudsperson as a government co-chair. The OHCHR representative remarked that the Office of Ombudsperson should not be considered a Governmental institution. The DRC representative emphasized the need for a proactive chair and asked about the BMA as a co-chair. UNHCR agreed on the importance of a proactive co-chair and noted that the Ombudsperson might be better placed to work across ministries.

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5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Close <p>Chair of the PWG closed the meeting, thanked participants for their presence and for their ideas on next steps.</p> <p>For any ideas and inputs for the Protection Working Group, please contact: Andrew Painter, Senior Protection Officer, E-mail: painter@unhcr.org</p>
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ACTION POINTS SUMMARY				
No.	Action	Responsible	Deadline	Status
1	To send the Protection Strategy and Workplan for inputs	UNHCR	27 July	13 th July
2	To send Terms of Reference for review by participants	UNHCR	27 July	13 th July
3	To send proposals on the activity of the PWG	Participants	27 July	13 th July