

**UKRAINE REFUGEE EMERGENCY  
REGIONAL PROTECTION WORKING GROUP (RPWG) MEETING**

Meeting Minutes – 22 April 2022

<b>Meeting objective:</b>	Discuss the pertinent protection issues at the regional level and the work of coordination structures established under the RPWG.
<b>Time &amp; location:</b>	Fridays at 15:00-16:00, online
<b>Participants:</b>	CDAC Network, European Network on Statelessness, ICRC, ICVA, ILO, Interpol, Intersos, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UN Women, WFP, WHO
<b>Agenda:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Introduction (UNHCR)</li> <li>2) Debrief on the last meeting of Gender TF (UN Women)</li> <li>3) Debrief on informal consultations on AT TF (IOM, UNODC)</li> <li>4) The situation of Stateless Persons in the Ukraine refugee emergency (European Network on Statelessness)</li> <li>5) Updates on CP <i>[with option to defer presentations to CP SWG meeting on 26 April]</i></li> <li>6) Updates on GBV</li> <li>7) Updates on AAP</li> <li>8) AOB</li> </ol>
<b>AGENDA POINT</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>
1) Introduction (UNHCR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adding one point to the agenda that had not been included initially: IOM and UNODC to provide a brief on informal consultation among IOM, UNHCR, UNODC and other agencies interested in the AT TF.</li> <li>• First draft of the IA Guidance on Vetting of Volunteers and Volunteer Organisations has been created, and there is a suggestion from the RBE to make it into an external product that can be of support to host authorities and other stakeholders. Will keep RPWG members updated on how this idea develops.</li> </ul>
2) Debrief on the last meeting of Gender TF (UN Women)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gender TF has had three meetings thus far; it comprises more than 50 members from 39 organisations (equal cross-mix of UN and INGO and CSO networks incl women led and LGBTIQ+). It is co-chaired by UN Women and CARE International and is exploring the option of a third co-chair. Cleared ToR and produced an Action Plan, that UN Women would be pleased to share.</li> <li>• Regional Gender TF meetings feature standing updates from sister structures at national levels.</li> <li>• The reasoning behind the setting up of a regional Gender TF is to look at gaps, provide technical analysis and mainstream gender, i.e. adding value to the work done at the country-level.</li> <li>• After having received a large number of rapid gender analyses from Poland, Moldova, etc., decided in the last meeting to develop a Regional Rapid Gender Analysis. The ToRs for the regional analysis have been discussed and approved and an implementing TF has been put in place; first draft should be ready by June.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing technical support to refugee response actors: first request came from the Moldova Gender TF, so UNICEF, WFP and UN Women set out developing a gender training for Moldova and planning to put together a roving training team.</li> <li>• Would be keen to provide gender updates to newly established coordination structures at regional level.</li> </ul>
3) Debrief on informal consultations on AT TF (IOM, UNHCR, UNODC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first informal AT TF meeting discussed and agreed the ToRs of the TF, but further comments to the ToR can still be made.</li> <li>• Three main objectives of the AT TF: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) To compile and share within the TF situational info and evidence, in support to effective and coordinated action.</li> <li>2) Joint awareness-raising and capacity-building.</li> <li>3) Provide operational support to field work.</li> </ol> </li> <li>• AT TF currently meets on biweekly basis though additional meetings can be requested on a needs-basis.</li> <li>• IOM, UNHCR and UNODC are co-Chairs, with participation of UNFPA and Interpol, the ICAT, the OSCE, GRETA, CoE, SC, La Strada International, TDH etc.</li> <li>• Next meeting will take place on 4 May. Currently developing a matrix of interventions planned/ongoing by the different organisations.</li> <li>• In recognition of the added value of EU stakeholders, they were invited to attend, but were unable to attend on this occasion.</li> <li>• Will be circulating a shorty summary of the informal meeting and all the tools referred to. Interested organisations may join in the TF.</li> </ul>
4) The situation of Stateless Persons in the Ukraine refugee emergency (European Network on Statelessness – ENS, UNHCR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• European Network on Statelessness (ENS) counts 170 member organisations in 41 European countries; the Network links its members to donors and with each other, provides visibility to their activities, etc.</li> </ul> <div style="text-align: right;">  <p>Statelessness%20in%20the%20Ukraine%20</p> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ENS provided a presentation on Statelessness in the Ukraine Refugee Response</li> <li>• ENS shared the <a href="#">Briefing on stateless persons and persons at risk of statelessness forcibly displaced from Ukraine</a>, the <a href="#">Index Page on Ukraine</a>, the <a href="#">EASO Practical Guide on Registration and Lodging of applications for international protection</a> and <a href="#">Forum Réfugiés, Identification Guide</a>.</li> <li>• Valeriia Cherednichenko is UNHCR RBE FP for statelessness. UNHCR is monitoring closely the situation and ensuing discriminatory practices, and compiling information for advocacy.</li> </ul>
5) Updates on CP (UNHCR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The first meeting of the regional CP SWG will take place on 26 April. Those interested in joining in should refer to Caroline Dulin Brass at <a href="mailto:dulin@unhcr.org">dulin@unhcr.org</a>.</li> </ul>
6) Updates on GBV (UNHCR)	<p>Moldova:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNHCR together with UNFPA leads the GBV response for refugees through the GBV Sub-Working Group, with 34 partners; linking the humanitarian response to multi-sectoral national services through GBV referral pathways, now set up nationally and covering core GBV services. UNHCR has conducted trainings for 126 frontline responders on how to safely handle disclosures by survivors and refer them to GBV services. 68,000 refugees were reached with anti-trafficking awareness messages.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• La Strada Moldova runs a women's GBV helpline; there are healthcare facilities at the national level within which the survivors of rape can access Post-Event Prophylaxis. Several women-led NGOs provide legal and psychological support.</li> <li>• Issuing an Interagency Fact Sheet on GBV.</li> <li>• Next week – we will have a dedicated and detailed mission debrief on Moldova by the colleague from DIP.</li> </ul> <p>Slovakia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GBV colleague in the east started developing referral pathways; planned training for border authorities and medical staff the contacts from which will be used to update referral pathways.</li> <li>• UNHCR is engaged with women-focused and women-led NGOs who will support the response, including in assisting the UNHCR to build the capacity of the network of women-focused NGOs in the country.</li> </ul> <p>Hungary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completed the referral pathways, which will be presented at the country PWG meeting next week.</li> <li>• Survivors' Helpline is functioning, and a number of NGOs are involved in the response, including Hungarian Red Cross on medical and PSS aspects; several local NGOs and faith-based organizations are offering different kinds of support including safe houses, legal assistance etc.</li> <li>• UNHCR has developed DOs and DONTs flyer, targeting frontline volunteers, which provides basic guidance linked to the key GBV principles of confidentiality, safety, non-discrimination and respect. The flyers are being disseminated among partners.</li> </ul> <p>Romania:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GBV referral pathways have progressed substantively, since a lot of local organisations have gotten involved. A number of international organisations have staff dedicated to PSEA/safeguarding. Intend to include the service providers of the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Labour, also the Anti-Trafficking Department, once they are made known by the authorities.</li> </ul> <p>Poland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Looking into including the private services for clinical management of rape, at least as stop-gap measure, into the referral pathways.</li> <li>• CARE providing training at main border crossing points.</li> </ul> <p><b>Regional GBV SG:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft ToRs will be ready next week, and first meeting will take place in the coming week or two. Those interested in joining this SWG may refer to Olga Vorontsova-Mykhailova <a href="mailto:vorontso@unhcr.org">vorontso@unhcr.org</a>.</li> </ul>
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7) Updates on AAP (UNHCR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Regional Multipurpose Call Centre project is in the final stage of comparing the offers by providers and of finalising the Concept Note for this solution.</li> <li>12 Blue Dots established so far: 4 in Poland, 5 in Moldova and 3 in Romania.</li> <li>Working on the Digital Blue Dot platform for the five neighbouring countries to Ukraine and hoping that the website will go live in the next couple of weeks.</li> <li>Ricardo Pla Cordero <a href="mailto:placorde@unhcr.org">placorde@unhcr.org</a> from DIP will be arriving in Poland next week to work on AAP coordination; partners are welcome to reach out to him.</li> </ul> <p><b>Ukraine Regional Health Extension:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UNHCR's Pieter Ventevogel and Sandra Harlass are deployed to the Ukraine Regional Office Regional Health Extension which is a temporary structure from health experts of the regional bureaux of WHO, UNCHR, ECDC and soon UNICEF, based in Krakow. The aim of this Health antenna is to look at how best to integrate MHPSS through the work in multiple sectors in the Ukraine Refugee Response. Issues around MHPSS are: 1) harmonization of the MHPSS indicators in Multi Sector Needs Assessment, 2) MHPSS in the Blue Dots, and 3) MHPSS in Communication with Communities. In case of questions or suggestion on MHPSS in the regional response please contact <a href="mailto:ventevog@unhcr.org">ventevog@unhcr.org</a> and/or <a href="mailto:harlass@unhcr.org">harlass@unhcr.org</a>.</li> <li>One of the specific areas the Antenna is looking into is GBV and health connections, and clinical management of rape.</li> </ul>
8) AOB (Interpol, UNDP)	<p><b>Anti-Trafficking:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Interpol is preparing one capacity-building activity 6-10 May on identification and prevention of human trafficking and smuggling of persons (in partnership with ICMEC and La Strada), and one training for law enforcement officials on the vetting and cross-check system. The first training will be open to the aid sector and Interpol will forward more information on it soon.</li> </ul> <p><b>Support to local communities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>While a lot of refugees are currently accommodated in host communities, at local level, it is important to understand the local context in terms of needs and responses. In that context, UNDP is currently undertaking a needs assessment with the Congress of Local Authorities of Moldova, with the support of IOM and UNHCR, which also includes a protection component (focusing on local capacities to respond to the current crisis). The assessment will look at current local governments' capacity-building needs, existing services and new services to be provided, based on actual refugees' needs. More updates in three weeks' time.</li> </ul>

No.	Action	FP	Status
1.	Extend invitation to IOM for CP SWG meeting on 26 April.	RBE/Vera	done
2.	UNHCR to connect Interpol with its office in Moldova to disseminate information on trafficking/smuggling CB activity in May.	RBE/Interpol	pending