

**UKRAINE REFUGEE EMERGENCY
REGIONAL PROTECTION WORKING GROUP (RPWG) MEETING**
Meeting Minutes – 13 May 2022

Meeting objective:	Discuss the pertinent protection issues at the regional level and the work of coordination structures established under the RPWG.
Time & location:	Every second Friday at 15:00-16:00, online
Participants:	European Disability Forum, European Network on Statelessness, Habitat for Humanity, HelpAge, Human Rights Watch, IFRC, ICVA, ILO, IOM, Interpol, UNDP, UNHCR, UNODC, UN Women, WFP, WHO
Agenda:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction (UNHCR) 2. Presentation on the Regional Refugee Response Plan (UNHCR) 3. Presentation by European Disability Forum (EDF) on its members' work for refugees with disabilities 4. Presentation by HelpAge on Impact of Ukrainian crisis on Older People with and without disabilities 5. Debrief on CP SWG meeting (UNHCR); any other updates on CP 6. Debrief on Gender TF Meeting (UN Women) 7. Debrief on AT TF Meeting (UNODC) 8. Updates on GBV 9. Updates on AAP 10. AOB
AGENDA POINT	DISCUSSION
1) Brief presentation on the Regional Refugee Response Plan (UNHCR)	
2) Presentation by European Disability Forum (EDF)	<p>EDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No systematic system in place to identify people with disabilities/ impairments as they arrive from Ukraine. • All protection risks are heightened for people with disabilities, incl. GBV, robbery, physical violence, etc. • Information for refugees usually not available in accessible format (sign language, audio, visual). • Even when there is awareness of existing services, these may not be accessible due to physical or institutional inaccessibility. • Have funding available for capacity-building.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of RPWG welcome to join in the EDF membership. Contact: Gordon Rattray EDF gordon.rattray@edf-fehp.org.  <p>2022.05.13%20Regional%20PWG%20meeting</p> <p>UNHCR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Poland, the response at the national policy level was immediate; however, in practice, we find that people are not aware of the complex programmes available. Therefore, the information provision from UNHCR, and by the national organisations involved with the services for people with disabilities are important. Organised a visit to a Blue Dot at the Poland-Ukraine border with the National Disability Forum for them to see and understand the needs.
<p>3) Presentation by HelpAge on Impact of Ukrainian crisis on Older People with and without disabilities</p>	<p>HelpAge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In a 2018 Report, HelpAge emphasized the exclusion of older people from the humanitarian response. 50% of the respondents to an IOM-led survey in Ukraine have an older person family member. Discussion is ongoing regarding older people in care facilities, particularly in eastern Ukraine; their family members are reaching out to HelpAge. Following 3-4 weeks' long missions to Moldova and Ukraine, and meeting with older persons in care facilities, their main needs are food, medicine and hygiene items. 38% of older refugees in Poland stated that they were planning to stay in Poland for a longer period with family and friends. Moldova is mainly a transit country: only 17% plan to remain with family and friends for a longer period there. In Moldova, HelpAge is distributing food kits and hot meals in 46 government-run centres; planning to scale up in collaboration with WFP; also planning to distribute hygiene vouchers. Looking to replicate the activities that went well inside Ukraine (MPCA & group cash, supporting national organisations with grants, supporting disability and care-givers' related costs, health referral pathways, trainings, consulting older people on their needs); already mobilising volunteers in Moldova and looking at safe spaces, PSS, recreation, connections with younger people, etc. Shared a UNHCR/HelpAge Guidebook "Working with older persons in forced displacement" from 2021. HelpAge is a member of CASH WGs in Ukraine and Moldova. Next week, starting a comprehensive needs assessment (NA) in Moldova, finalising the report on the needs assessment for Ukraine and looking to carry out a similar assessment in Poland. <p>IOM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The findings of HelpAge coincide with what IOM has been witnessing on the ground IOM is ensuring disability inclusion in all data collection activities. Hiring a Disability and Inclusion Advisor for Moldova. Highlighted significant concerns with shelter in terms of need for modifications and accessibility; challenges with transportation

	<p>and cash distribution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trying to make sure that all people can access the services that they need and that all staff are sensitized of these needs. <p>EDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The percentage of older people who are included in rapid needs assessments and censuses are not representative of the actual population. • For planning purposes, EDF estimates that at least 15% of a population will be persons with disabilities. • Shared the EDF general page on Ukraine and tools and resources for disability inclusion. • A member of EDF's Ukraine network is working on an inclusive cash feasibility study. Results to be available/shared end-May or early June. <p>UNHCR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invited HelpAge to join the Regional CASH WG and country level CASH WGs in countries where HelpAge plans to become operational.
4) Debrief on CP SWG (UNHCR); any other updates on CP	<p>UNHCR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional CP SWG met on 9 May; happy to see that the list of members is growing. • 9 May meeting featured a country focus on Romania with a briefing from UNHCR CP Coordinator Danielle Beasley and a presentation on the role and activities of the European Guardianship Network. • Minutes of that meeting available here:
5) Debrief on Gender TF (UN Women)	<p>UN Women:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fourth meeting of the Regional Gender TF, Co-chaired by UN Women and CARE International, took place in the current week. • Regional Gender Assessment underway; Action Team composed of CARE, UN Women and the JPPF; currently consolidating existing analysis and key gaps and proposing way forward; happy to share the concept note with the RPWG. • Shared Rapid Gender Analysis for Ukraine. • Different target groups for the gender training in Moldova (to be implemented in cooperation with the Gender TF in Moldova) - one with government officials, one with frontline workers and one for humanitarian workers (fully-fledged). Gender training available for other host countries and humanitarian actors as needed. • Moldova Gender TF has developed a gender-checklist, to be peer-reviewed by the regional Gender TF.
6) Debrief on ATTF (UNODC)	<p>UNODC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Second meeting of the Regional Anti-Trafficking Task Force took place on 4 May. • The meeting discussed data consolidation and exchange and possible recommendations to the EU Anti-Trafficking Coordinator, and other key actors • Data collection would not be aimed at getting the most accurate picture, but to see what AT cases exist, based on identification and referrals by the participants in the ATTF. Otherwise, members agree on the need for data collection. • An policy group has been established to produce policy guidance on TiP in the context of the Ukraine crisis, complementing the

Добавлено примечание ([GSP1]): Spell out

	work of the ATTF.
7) Updates on GBV	DEFERRED TO THE MEETING OF REGIONAL GBV SWG ON 16 MAY 2022
8) Updates on AAP	<p>UNHCR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working on feedback and complaints mechanism with UNICEF, and consolidation of CFMs in different countries; encouraged RPWG members to participate. Continuing to enhance and adapt the communication products; looking at stepping up information and communication assessments. An AAP Workshop has just taken place in Slovakia; thanks to all the partners who contributed.
9) AOB	<p>Interpol:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Human Trafficking and Smuggling of Migrants Unit of Interpol has deployed another mission to Moldova to follow-up on the actions started in the first mission and support with ongoing TiP cases between Moldova and other countries in the region. <p>IOM:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action has issued a moratorium on adoption of children from Ukraine, which should be worth discussing. UNHCR noted that during- and post-war adoptions from Ukraine have been discussed in the regional CP SWG meeting, and it was decided that the ban on adoptions is very much in line with UNHCR's policy. <p>EDF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Received request for support for psychiatric medication for an institution in Ukraine and asked whether any organization could follow-up on this. WHO offered to follow-up.

No.	Action	FP	Status
1.	EDF to share a (contact) list of their members at country level	Gordon	pending
2.	RBE to share the contact details of the Chair of the CASH WG at the regional level with HelpAge	Geraldine/Vera	done
3.	WHO to put EDF in contact with the MHPPS person responsible for medication support	Erin	unknown