



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

Time & location:	27 May 2022 at 15:00-16:30, online
Participants:	DRC, ENS, ICVA, IFRC, ILO, Interpol, IOM, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UN Women, WHO
Agenda:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction 2. Update on PSEA 3. Debrief on UNHCR-ENS Statelessness Webinar 4. Debrief from CP SWG/GBV SWG/ATTF 5. Debrief from the Regional Gender TF 6. AAP 7. AOB
AGENDA POINT	DISCUSSION
1) Update on PSEA	<p>UNHCR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deployed PSEA Coordinators from the start of the crisis in Poland, Moldova, Romania and Hungary (covering also Slovakia and Czech Republic). As of recently, deployed a dedicated PSEA Coordinator for Slovakia. PSEA Networks have also been established in these countries (co-chaired by UNHCR and Plan International in Poland and with World Vision in Romania). Their main focus is mainstreaming SEA risk mitigation, which has been done through integration of PSEA in protection training, including in ToT (more than 2,500 persons, including staff, partners and authorities trained thus far). UNHCR is following up on requests to translate the training packages into Ukrainian. • PSEA has also been mainstreamed in messaging to communities through leaflets, posters, as well as social media (Stay Safe Campaign on social media has thus far reached 4 million people), • SEA Risk Assessments have been completed in Romania and Poland. Remaining countries undertook multi-sectoral needs assessments which include PSEA • Key priorities in the regional remain completion of referral pathways and complains and feedback mechanisms (CFMs) (efforts continue to build the capacities of smaller organisations in this regard). In Moldova, an interagency referral form has been developed, now recommended for use by all humanitarian agencies. • In mid-June, UNHCR Moldova, Slovakia and Poland will host a high-level mission on PSEA by USG Jane Holl Lute, UN Special Coordinator on PSEA, and possibly ASG Jane Connors, Victims' Rights Advocate. Will debrief the RPWG members on the aftermath of the mission.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vetting of volunteers is something that has been advocated for and a Guidance on registration and vetting of volunteer and volunteer organizations has been produced and shared with country operations to support their advocacy efforts. The Guidance is further being developed/adjusted by the Regional Anti-Trafficking Task Force. <p>Mission Debrief of UNHCR PSEA Coordinator to Romania Lauren Borg:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Presentation .pptx</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>PSEA Network - rapid risk assessment_final0</p> </div> </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PSEA Network in Romania was established in March, has 29 members and has met seven times thus far. The SEA Risk Assessment undertaken in Romania identified the following risks: the existence of trafficking networks that pre-date the Ukraine emergency, lack of detailed registration jeopardizing identification of persons with specific needs, rapid expansion of field staff by aid actors which sometimes compromises safeguarding/training, gaps in the vetting of volunteers, lack of interpreters for Ukrainian and other local languages, lack of properly formatted, accessible information, and, finally, offers of accommodation through unregulated online platforms. • The key findings from the SEA risk assessment informed the PSEA Action Plan which was developed and covers prevention, response, monitoring and reporting. Existing reporting channels were mapped. Challenges remain as regard smaller organisations which have no capacity to implement PSEA measures while larger ones are struggling with establishing local partnerships and have therefore not been able to establish localized reporting channels. 40 organisations have undergone PSEA ToT and awareness sessions have also been organized with local authorities who work on social assistance and child protection, as well as NGOs and volunteers working in the border areas in northern Romania, and refugees themselves. Sessions with refugees aimed, inter alia, to better understand their awareness on reporting channels and PSEA in general. Both Government employees and refugees showed a limited awareness on these issues, a significant gap that PSEA Network members are trying to address. The Government is setting up its own PSEA Task Force that the agencies will support and feed into. • GBV referral pathways were completed and revealed gaps in services.
<p>2) Debrief on Statelessness Webinar</p>	<p>UNHCR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global Statelessness Retreat took place this week with participation from a large number of NGOs and a few statelessness activists. • The Regional session on Ukraine organized with UNHCR’s partner, the European Network on Statelessness ahead of the Retreat looked into statelessness issues inside Ukraine and in first-and second-line countries. • There are categories of stateless persons in Ukraine that have obtained temporary or permanent residence permits, and others that were recognized as stateless under the recently established statelessness determination procedure, but that is a very small number. The majority are unfortunately without any documentation or with an undetermined nationality, disabling their registration as IDPs and hindering their access to humanitarian aid and other rights. This requires advocacy both with authorities and with humanitarian actors inside Ukraine. • The Roma, many of whom are without documentation, were allowed to leave the country earlier on in the crisis. The practice has

	<p>however changed over the past weeks with Roma often not allowed to leave the country when they possess no documents or Ukrainian “internal passports” only.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the neighbouring countries, the largest number of stateless persons or at risk of statelessness who have approached UNHCR and partners are in Poland. The provision of information in Ukrainian and Russian and in the languages spoken by the Roma is critical. Efforts are underway to address gaps in this regard through boosting information on the TPD and access to relevant procedures as well as increasing access to legal aid. Advocacy efforts with local authorities aim to understand the root causes and enable solutions, and to ensure birth registration of children from undocumented persons on the move so as to avoid childhood statelessness. • UNHCR is also monitoring the situation in the second-line countries and to understand intentions from those fleeing Ukraine in terms of return or onward movements. • Shared ENS’ Report Statelessness and the Ukraine Crisis Response (briefings on different countries and on the categories of stateless persons in Ukraine prior 24 Feb, on protection mechanisms in place and those yet to be in place). • Members of RWPG encouraged to come forth with any information/reports concerning statelessness and any questions they may have (contact: Valeriia Cherednichenko cheredni@unhcr.org).
3) Update from Interpol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mission in Moldova took place on 12-24 May, was a joint mission of the counterterrorism and the human trafficking units. The object was to deploy Interpol officers together with local authorities in different border crossing points and hotspots in Moldova to run cross-checks against Interpol databases, using biometric devices to detect fugitives wanted terrorists, but also other criminals, including human traffickers and other offenders. The team was deployed to five different points and detected 10 different hits for subjects that were wanted for different crimes, including sexual exploitation. • An officer was deployed on this mission, sitting in the Centre for Combating Human Trafficking in Moldova, who has made contact with Europol, UNICEF and the UNHCR PSEA Coordinator on the ground, following up on detected cases. • Capacity-building activity planned on 6-8 June in Moldova, to equip border agents, aid workers and first responders with basic to intermediate knowledge on the recognition of human trafficking indicators and evidence related to human trafficking and to understand their specific role. This is just a first in a series of such capacity-building activities. • Looking at deployments and extending activities to other countries in the region (subject to governments’ invitation and resolution of budgetary constraints), first of all to Romania where some preliminary meetings have taken place, and to Ukraine.
4) Debrief from CP SWG/GBV SWG/AT TF	<p>Anti-Trafficking Task Force (UNODC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Anti-Trafficking Task Force (AT TF) last met on 19 May; it focused on data consolidation (templates/forms were shared with TF members for finalization) and capacity building of humanitarian actors on trafficking in persons (members outlined their respective capacity building activities). • Although humanitarian actors do have some general knowledge on AT, more specific capacity building is necessary. • Guidelines for vetting and registration of volunteers and volunteer organizations were also shared with AT TF membership for comments. • Save the Children have developed child friendly AT awareness materials. • Next meeting of AT TF will take place on 2 June.

	<p>Child Protection sub-Working Group (UNHCR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The meeting of the regional Child Protection Sub Working Group took place on 23 May, attended by 12 different stakeholders and chaired by UNICEF. It featured a presentation from Save the Children on the work that their partners are conducting in the region, a very helpful debrief from UNICEF on the reference group on legal analysis of the legislation on UASC from Ukraine, and a debrief from UNHCR on an emergency CP mission to Poland. Members discussed the idea of an Interagency CP SWG Update and finalized the SWG's ToRs. <p>GBV sub-Working Group (UNHCR)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The regional GBV Sub-working group had its first meeting on 16 May. Introductory meeting and discussion on what is happening on the ground. GBV SWGs have been established in Poland and Moldova. In Poland, the GBV SWG is co-chaired by UNHCR and a women-led organization, in Moldova UNFPA co-chairs with UNHCR. Next meeting of the regional GBV SWG will take place on 30 May; organisations with programmatic activities in GBV in the region especially welcome to join membership. Contacts: Olga Vorontsova-Mykhailova vorontso@unhcr.org and Vera Dragovic-O'Donnell dragovic@unhcr.org. This next meeting will discuss the experience of safety audits in Moldova and will feature presentation by Voice Amplified on their latest report When the Sky Closes: The Unprecedented Crisis Facing Women and Girls Fleeing Ukraine and a debrief from UNHCR GBV Coordinator from Slovakia. GBV referral pathways have been developed in the majority of the five frontline states bordering Ukraine. Focus group discussions with women have taken place in Hungary and Slovakia. In Romania, several high-level visits looked into different protection aspects, including GBV, including recent visit by SRSB on Sexual Violence in Conflict to Ukraine, Moldova and Poland. A key outcome of this mission was the conclusion of a framework agreement between SRSB and the Government of Ukraine in relation to cooperating in the area of sexual violence in conflict. Follow-up mission expected to take place end-June.
<p>5) Debrief from the Regional Gender TF (UN Women)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regional Gender Task Force (GTF) has had its fifth meeting. Very active work streams and more than 20 representatives from a wide range of organizations present in each meeting. Providing demand-driven training in host countries; right now, piloting a training with the Moldova Gender Task Force. Following that, trainings in other aspects of gender will be organized for humanitarian actors, government actors, women's civil society organizations and networks. Supporting the Moldova GTF in reviewing a checklist ped to support systematic gender integration. Looking at sharing this tool with other host countries' structures to see if there is interest/value and adapting it. Also looking at sexual and reproductive health rights, women's participation and leadership and intersectionality. The other piece of work that regional GTF is progressing on is the regional Rapid Gender Analysis (to be finalised by end-July), targeted on four specific areas of enquiry complementary to the recent analysis that has been released by Voice Amplified who are members of regional GTF. This will be more of a meta-analysis drawing upon existing analysis, and we will be having validation sessions to which members of the RPWG who are interested will be invited. Gender TF committed to ensure strong synergies with the GBV SWG, possibly having some joint sessions.

6) AAP	<p>UNICEF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On statelessness, UNICEF sees an obvious connection on the need to share information and happy to consider that. • On gender: suggested to insert AAP modules into existing trainings. • Quite a lot of work on CFMs: working together with UNHCR in Blue Dots to develop a common taxonomy; waiting for the form to be finalised to enable a coordinated approach. The increasing focus behind the Blue Dots is to support government efforts and their hotlines. • Developing some good practices and lessons that can be shared. • Recent work around child consultation and participation in Poland and Ukraine together with Save the Children and Plan International and can share further details upon request (contact: Charles Antoine Hofmann chofmann@unicef.org). • AAP questions included in needs assessments; UNICEF in Bulgaria is currently exploring such an assessment together with UNHCR. Needs assessments offer an opportunity to assess people’s preferred communication channels and whether they are receiving the right kind of assistance. The IASC set of questions have been adjusted and implemented in many countries. • New report from CDAC network Communication, community engagement and accountability across the Ukraine response includes a series of recommendations based on initial lessons, also outline some of the challenges that we are all facing. <p>UNHCR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking into the establishment of a regional, multipurpose call center, and hoping to provide more information on that during the RPWG meeting session dedicated to AAP. • In Moldova for example, there is a dedicated AAP TF, in other countries the AAP is a standing agenda item of the Protection Working Group. • Suggest inviting UNHCR AAP Coordinators from the field to debrief and participate in an AAP-related discussion. <p>IFRC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestions for session dedicated to AAP: it would be good to hear of different methods, modes of feedback mechanisms; also, to discuss how we can share analysis together. Single hotlines should be avoided. Would like to see common products, involving humanitarian actors but also government stakeholders. • Would also like to hear of different ways of communicating with people and finding people, communication with people on the move, community engagement and accountability.
--------	---

No.	Action point	FP	Status
1.	Place a dedicated discussion on AAP and CFMs on the agenda of next RPWG meeting	UNHCR	pending
2.	UNHCR PSEA Coordinator in Romania to place announcements on upcoming PSEA trainings on Romania country page on the UNHCR data portal (Ukraine Situation)	UNHCR	pending
3.	AT TF to share child-friendly AT materials with RPWG members	AT TF Chairs	pending
4.	Follow-up on placement of AT TF materials on the UNHCR data portal (Ukraine Situation)	UNODC and UNHCR	ongoing