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

Time & location:	10 June 2022 at 15:00-16:30, online
Participants:	DRC, Help Age International, ICVA, ILO, Interpol, IOM, IPPF, La Strada International, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UN Women, VOICE, WFP
Agenda:	1. **Introduction – presentation on the revamped Global Data Portal (UNHCR)** 2. **Update on Media Guide on GBV and the roll-out of the GBV Safety Audit (UNHCR)** 3. **Update on Anti-Trafficking Task Force meeting (IOM/UNODC)** 4. **Update on Gender Task Force meeting (UN Women)** 5. **Debrief on CP SWG meeting (UNICEF/UNHCR)** 6. **AOB**
AGENDA POINT	**DISCUSSION**
1) Introduction – presentation on the revamped Global Data Portal	UNHCR: • Presentation by Giorgia Tornieri, Senior Information Management Officer. • Data portal page for the Ukraine Situation previously concentrated on cross-border movements; in the first ten days of May, movements out of and into Ukraine became almost identical in numbers. Border authorities track border crossings rather than individual arrivals and include double counting. • To support decision-making in countries neighboring Ukraine and other European countries, UNHCR began tracking presence and that is what the data portal now primarily reflects. The source for presence are the national authorities; in parallel, UNHCR started to track the # of national applications for temporary protection (TP). Not all Ukrainians will register for TP/asylum, so the numbers for presence are most likely underestimations. • There is an explanatory note at the bottom of data portal Ukraine Situation page with sources and methodologies. • There is no disaggregated data for the total numbers but some 10 countries share the data publicly, including details on age/gender. On currently available country pages, there is disaggregated data. • Eurostat started to share data on TP a few days ago (incl. by age/gender and a specific table for UASC and including per nationality so including TCNs and stateless persons but excluding info on whether they had arrived from Ukraine). • According to government statistics from before 24 February, there were 5,000 persons in Ukraine with undetermined nationality/stateless, so UNHCR is trying to understand how many have left Ukraine and how many are trying to apply for TP or similar temporary protection schemes.

2) Update on Media Guide on GBV and the roll-out of the GBV Safety Audit	UNHCR:
	- Safety audits have been identified as one of the main GBV risk mitigation measures. - UNHCR, UNFPA and partners conducted a participatory GBV safety audit (including FGs, interviews, observation walks) with refugees in key locations in Moldova (accommodation centres, border points, host community locations, etc.). A safety audit toolkit has been adapted to the context. Concerning GBV and trafficking risks were identified, as well as gaps in the GBV response. Findings and recommendations will be shared and GBV mainstreaming plans developed with all sectors. **Moldova**: GBV SWG has strengthened the coordination and includes 51 govt agencies, NGOs and UN agencies. National organisations are at the forefront of the response. Launched SOP development process; 507 frontline responders trained in prevention and response to GBV; in cooperation with Ministry of Interior, UNICEF & INTERPOL provided training on GBV response and anti-trafficking to 136 police officers. - CRSV: the GBV SWG supported the visit of the UN SRSG on SVC To Ukraine, Moldova and Poland, who urged not to wait for "hard data" before scaling up the response for the survivors. - GBV awareness: GBV referral cards and posters have been developed and shared, created by UNHCR and UNFPA, and with participation from the refugee community. - Shared a Factsheet - Working Group: Moldova: Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Sub-Sector Working Group (unhcr.org) **Hungary**: UNHCR is coordinating the GBV response through the Protection working group. - GBV referral pathways (RP) are rolled out at interagency level. Around 30 actors (incl. LGBTIQ+ organizations) included in the GBV RP. - Formally signed partnership between UNHCR and GBV-specialized WLO (NANE). UNHCR and Budapest Municipality reached a collaboration agreement which foresees *inter alia* the delivery of specific GBV training to all social workers operating in municipality-run shelters. - Organized a FGD with a group of Ukrainian refugee women. Trafficking risks to which adolescent girls/young women traveling alone and UASC are exposed and economic vulnerability for women who have become the breadwinners stood out as priority concerns. - Drafted internal Referral SOPs (for PwSN and GBV disclosure cases). - UNHCR has developed a Dos' and Don'ts flyer targeting frontline volunteers that provides some basic guidance linked to the key GBV principles of confidentiality, safety, non-discrimination and respect. - Multilanguage key messages on GBV and trafficking risks were developed and are being disseminated among partners, social platforms and on UNHCR Help page. **Romania:** UNHCR is coordinating the GBV response within the Protection working group. - GBV RP are now rolled out at interagency level. Around 33 actors (incl. LGBTIQ+ organizations) and five government institutions are included in the GBV RP. - So far held two FGD with two different groups of Ukrainian refugee women in Siret and Sighetu covering North of Romania. Short session including PSEA and AAP, CBI, protection was delivered in Russian language. No GBV issues were noted however, refugees inquired about CBIs as women with children are facing economic difficulties. Language seems to a big limitation for refugees to interact with locals and humanitarian actors. Trafficking risks highlighted during FGDs to which adolescent girls/young women traveling alone are exposed.

	- A total of 125 participants received comprehensive protection training package, including 80 government staff of DGASOC (Child Protection authorities) and 45 participants from NGO staff and volunteers. UNHCR printed a pocket version of GBV guide in three languages. - Safe spaces for women are in place in three transit/accommodations centres. Care International is performing a Rapid Gender Analysis. - Three Blue Dots are already established at Siret, Signet and Isaccea border crossing points as safe spaces for GBV survivors and others with specific needs and two more Blue Dots are in progress in Bucharest and Brasov. - A call for Expression of Interest has been launched in Romania covering protection (including GBV) and assistance. - **Slovakia**: UNHCR is coordinating the GBV response within the Protection working group. - UNHCR recently conducted a rapid assessment in the east to map GBV risks and vulnerabilities faced by Ukrainian refugees, in particular women and girls; engaged with women-led organizations who support the response. - UNHCR conducted a training of 36 frontliners who included site coordinators, psychologists, legal officers and transport providers on common understanding of key concepts in prevention and response, highlighting key GBV risks for women and girls, guiding GBV principles, and steps non-GBV actors may take in situations where there are no GBV actors; also trained 240 police and border guards on GBV safe disclosure and referrals. - GBV referral pathways for three locations in the east have been drafted and shared with GBV actors. A small TF of volunteer GBV actors has been established to strengthen and expand development of referral pathways in key refugee hosting areas including in Bratislava - **Poland**: UNHCR established the inter-agency GBV Sub-Working Group, co-chaired by a local women-led organization (Centrum Praw Kobiet); it brings together on a weekly basis more than 36 participants representing UN agencies as well as local and international NGOs. - Guidance is being disseminated among GBV actors through the GBV SWG page on UNHCR's data portal thus contributing to enhance the quality of GBV programs. It contains a range of documents, tools, and resources including UNHCR's video 'Take Action Against GBV' - a Survivor-Centred Approach. - A General Safety Tip Sheet for Reception Centres was disseminated and members of the SWG are now using it during their monitoring visits to reception centres. - A draft RP was also initiated. - **GBV Media Guide**: further to all the media attention, created a short media guide on GBV, containing QR codes that lead to other GBV reporting - comms.pptx related externally-available documents; also developed a simple presentation on GBV reporting. In response to question from La Strada on CRSV and funding for local organisations: - Belarus not planned yet for safety audits. UNHCR will need to look at the situation in each of the receiving countries, but right now still focusing on first-line countries and on finalising the desk review. - Witnessed heightened attention to CRSV, especially in mid-April, which culminated in SRSG's visit to three countries mentioned; hoping to hear from SRSG's office on plans for a joint response by UN Action members. Involvement with investigation

	mechanisms is also underway. • In terms of funding, UNHCR country offices have been launching CfPs, including for GBV. • For those organisations that are part of the RRP, there is a funding tracking service which is publicly available. For smaller organisations there is probably some lack of transparency at the national level but UNHCR does not have that information.
3) Update on Anti-Trafficking Task Force (AT TF) meeting	IOM: • Last meeting took place on 2 June, centred around data consolidation and consolidated reporting; there is no global tool for reporting on trafficking cases, so AT TF performed some mapping and identified some likely tools which are currently being reviewed. So the meeting on 2 June was a technical review of proposed forms and moving closer to a tool that partners can start rolling out in the coming two weeks. The meeting also discussed the form deployment issues including data protection, mapping of partners engaged in screening and identification and building their capacities. • Hoping to have the first Report on case data and identification coming out in July. • Completed extensive mapping and depository of awareness-raising and public information, anti-trafficking messaging and capacity-building toolkits, available to AT TF members and others upon request. • Starting to act as peer reviewer: one of the partners provided a draft of child-friendly information materials, including AT messages for review, which will be finalised in the coming couple of days after which it may be publicized. • OSCE planning a workshop on capacity-building approaches and the work in the Ukraine response in early July; AT TF currently preparing for that and to move on from mapping to identifying best practices, the 3Ws, coming up with some joint materials, etc. • A lot of interest amongst the partners in reporting on the Ukraine response, what has been done/implemented, the role of local partners, etc. so aiming at producing some common materials in that sense.
4) Update on Regional Gender Task Force (RGTF) meeting	UN Women: • Last meeting on 8 June, involving a broad range of actors, UN agencies, INGOs, women-led organisations, LGBTQI+ actors, etc. • Regional Rapid Gender Analysis (RRGA) o the refugee response looks at consolidating regional gender data and analysis – mainly secondary data collection (main topics: intersectional gender, GBV mitigation, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and women's participation and leadership). Its purpose is to inform the triple RP and other platforms around advocacy, plot policy and programming initiatives and activities. RGTF currently discussing its validation. Report frameworks being completed and aiming to launch the RRGA at end-July. • Next area of focus is demand-driven technical capacity support to refugee response actors on gender and humanitarian action. This began with the launch of a pilot set of trainings for governmental counterparts, frontline workers and GTF members and sectoral leads in Moldova, to be supported technically and financially by UN Women. Intend to expand to other refugee-hosting countries after the pilot is over. • RGTF has completed basic interagency mapping of gender-targeted actions and interventions and the emergent gaps. • RGTF is also emerging as a provider of quality assurance and as a reference group - the Moldova GTF has already asked RGTF to validate their gender checklist.

5) Debrief on CP SWG meeting	UNHCR: • Regional Child Protection Sub-Working Group (CP SWG) last met on 6 June with some 15 participants. It featured a good presentation from a UNICEF colleague, a social policy advisor, who provided an overview of the social policies in first-line countries and the respective follow-up by UNICEF. Participants to the meeting were invited to reflect on areas where the lack of cash is causing child protection risks for Ukrainian refugee children. This remained an open take-away point that colleagues are still welcome to send suggestions on. • Regional CP SWG will have its next meeting on 20 June.
6) AOB	• Proposed Regional Interagency Protection Update – 93% of participants voted in favour • Proposed that frequency of RPWG meetings be switched to monthly – 78% voted in favour; the Group decided to keep the meeting on 24 June and have the following meeting a month later.

No.	Action point	FP	Status
1.	Put the Guidance on Vetting on the agenda of the upcoming Regional AT TF	AT TF Chairs	pending
2.	Put a discussion on AAP on the agenda of the upcoming RPWG	UNHCR	pending
3.	Put a discussion on implementation of TPD across the EUMS on the agenda of the upcoming RPWG	UNHCR	pending
4.	Share a mockup of Regional Interagency Protection Update for discussion	UNHCR	pending