



## PROTECTION WORKING GROUP/DISABILITY TASKFORCE (DTF)

Meeting Details		
Date	07.10.2022 - Next meeting on 21.10.2022	
Time	11.00-12.00 am	
Chair	Ludmila Malcoci, Executive Director, Keystone Moldova	
Reporting	Ludmila Ciocan, DTF Secretariat Coordinator, Keystone Moldova	
Email	<a href="mailto:lmalcoci@khs.org">lmalcoci@khs.org</a> ; <a href="mailto:lciocan@khs.org">lciocan@khs.org</a> ;	
Agenda		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Opening remarks. Short updates on the DTF activity</li><li>• Updates from other working groups/taskforces</li><li>• OHCHR Ukraine sub-section - presentation of the mandate and activities in Moldova</li><li>• New projects/initiatives to support the refugees with disabilities (Motivatie)</li><li>• SOS Autism RAC: accreditation and services</li><li>• Discussions of DFT planning for 2023</li><li>• AOB</li></ul>		
Information collection and relevant links		
Moldova operational data portal: <a href="https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784">https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784</a>		
Participants		
Ludmila Ciocan, Keystone Moldova Tatiana Cernomorit, OHCHR Martina Gastaldello, OHCHR Adriana Ysern Zarranz, UNHCR Tamara Ropot, UNHCR Corneliu Tarus, IOM	Aliona Dumitras, SOS Autism Valentina Toporet, MOTIVATIE Ana Spinu, CASMED Gabrielle, INTERSOS Carolina Scifos, UNHCR	Aurelia Isac, State Chancellery/ Cancelaria de Stat Gianna Zoukidou, UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine Khatuna Murgulia, OHCHR Ukraine sub-section



### Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p>Opening remarks. Short updates DTF</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The DTF is preparing its <b>monthly report for the Protection WG</b>. It will be integrated into the inter-agency report by October 15. Partners are kindly reminded to send data on the assistance provided to refugees with disabilities in September.</li> <li><b>Data collection on uncovered needs for persons with disabilities is continuing</b>: medical needs remain an important issue to be addressed. These include rehabilitation; medicines; services; diapers for adults.</li> <li>UNHCR informs that it received the lists of needs and is currently looking at all needs. <b>UNHCR approach consists of first identifying existing solutions for support</b> (within the government services) and linking with relevant WG (for example, child protection and education). This is because some of the needs which were communicated are general (food, winter coats, school supplies) that should be available to every child, independently on whether they have a disability. UNHCR is also planning a meeting with WHO to discuss about medicines and explore possible provision of medical supplies. <b>Once this first avenue is explored, then the discussion can also be at the level of identifying special funds for specific needs</b> (like special chairs). It is important that all actors part of the DTF are aware of the existing resources. <b>Support can also be searched in the private sector. UNHCR is also exploring the possibility to do direct purchase</b>, but they need to know the size of the items.</li> <li>The DTF inquires about the possibility for UNHCR to provide financial support to NGOs with financial resources; since NGOs working with persons with disabilities are better places to identify them and providing them with targeted assistance, but these NGOs are having difficulties in providing services. Similarly, persons with disabilities have difficulties in finding appropriate service providers. UNHCR reacts to this by explaining that while they cannot give money to NGOs to purchase items (for example diapers), they have IKEA donations that they can give.</li> </ul>	<p>Partners to send inputs on September assistance.</p> <p>UNHCR and DTF to continue working to identify a suitable response to the needs, by exploring multiple avenues (linkage with other sectors; government services; private sector; or special purchases).</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was mentioned by the DTF that cash assistance that refugees are receiving is insufficient to cover their needs, and this further complicates the situation of persons with disabilities.</li> <li>• A better communication related to the available existing resources between partners are necessary.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Updates from other working groups/ taskforces</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Border monitoring has revealed a small increase in border crossing, including from Russian, especially in the first week of October; most refugees come from Odessa and Nikolaiv due to increase in conflict; also increase of people who choose to go to Transnistrian region. With regards to people with disabilities arriving to Moldova, partners at the border did not report an increase number of arrival, however they clarified that they can only speak about disabilities that are visible.</li> <li>• The Accommodation and Transport sector is coordinating the distribution of NFI in RACs and host communities, to ensure coverage and avoid duplication in assistance.</li> </ul> <p><b>Extension of emergency law while Temporary Protection is being discussed</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The legal status of the refugees is regulated by the law of emergency was scheduled to expire on 6 October. The government submitted a proposal to the parliament to extend the state of emergency for another 60 days. This was discussed during a parliamentary plenary session on 6 October and the law of emergency was extended. The adoption of temporary protection is still being discussed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Other initiatives</b></p> <p><u>Psychological support hotline (Amici dei Bambini)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On 1 August <i>Amici dei Bambini</i> NGO launched an hotline for children and refugees women from Ukraine, with funding from Oxfam.</li> <li>• The team of coordinators, supervisors and psychologists work 5 days per week providing psychological consultancy, management of cognitive disorders. Several psychologists work at the hotline and they help with topics such as: how to cope with psycho- emotional needs; anxiety panic attacks; material difficulties; depression; feeling of guilt; sleeping disorders.</li> <li>• The service is offered in Russian, Romanian, English. Support is provided only over the phone and can be long-term, based on needs.</li> </ul> <p>The service was advertised through posters in the RACs, leaflets distributions; online advertisements; videos with recommendations.</p>	



#### Small Grants Launch (ACTED)

- **ACTED launched a call for Proposal for CSOs: Community-based protection to ensure a protective environment for both refugee and host communities in Moldova.**
- The aim of the call is to strengthen the protective environment for both refugees and local communities living in the Republic of Moldova and foster integration between refugees and host communities.
- Three separate grants will be awarded, to be used to implement projects in any the following raions: Ocnîța; Anenii Noi; Hincești; Ialoveni; Dondușeni; Edineț.
- Budget available: **Up to EUR 29.400. Amount per grant: Up to EUR 9.800.**
- **Eligible activities: social cohesion, child protection, prevention and response to GBV, activities targeting the specific needs of people with vulnerabilities (ex. disabilities, minorities).**
- Deadline: 24 October
- <https://www.civic.md/anunturi/granturi/65957-call-for-proposal-launched-by-acted.html>

#### **Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2023**

- UNHCR is leading the efforts to prepare the Refugee Response Plan for 2023, a tool for donors to have an idea of the existing needs.
- Timeline:
- -25 to 30 September: community consultations in key locations
- -30.09. – High level workshop with government counterparts (Joint Crisis Management Center) and partners to present government. The government presented its planning framework for the next 3 years, based on a scenario where maximum 200,000 refugees will remain in Moldova. UNHCR planning figures include a caseload of 200,000 refugees and 180,000 host community members. Sectors presented their priorities.
- -1 to 17 October – sector consultations (priorities, activities and indicators),
- -16 October – submission by sectors of objectives, activities and indicators to IAC Team
- -19 to 23 October– project submission.
- -24 October – submission of RRP figures to UNHCR Regional Bureau.



<p><b>OHCHR Ukraine sub-section - presentation of the mandate and activities in Moldova</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Office established in August;</li> <li>• It is focused on documenting cases of human rights and international humanitarian law violations that occur in the context of the Ukraine war (GBV, torture, arbitrary detentions, enforced disappearances, filtrations);</li> <li>• The Office aim is to reach refugees in Moldova who have experienced/witnesses violations in Ukraine;</li> <li>• Partners who know cases of refugees who may have suffered violations can contact the colleagues at the email addressed provided in the presentation.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>New projects/initiatives to support the refugees with disabilities (Motivatie)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motivatie together with other 3 organizations has started in August to implement a <b>project to support refugees with disabilities from Ukraine</b>. The project goal is <b>to raise stakeholder’s awareness for a more inclusive humanitarian response</b>. The objective of the European Disability Forum that finance the initiative is to support persons with disabilities to take a better role in policy and improve community stakeholders and policy maker’s awareness for a more inclusive response. The objective of partnership is to promote participation in planning and response and remove barriers.</li> <li>• Motivatie is responsible for the development and implementation of an advocacy plan for central authorities for a more inclusive response.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>SOS Autism RAC - accreditation and services</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The video ‘<i>Can you make it to the end</i>’ was showed, to illustrate the higher perception that children with Autism have.</li> <li>• In March, <b>the association SOS Autism, founded by eight mothers of children with Autism, offered a place for children with Autism in a building that used to be a boarding school and that was adapted to be an accommodation</b>. They took in refugees, reorganized the rooms and decided to provide therapy for these children.</li> <li>• Between March and October 2022, 45 beneficiaries received speech therapy.</li> <li>• They accommodate 30 persons.</li> <li>• Since April, they had 2 donors who were supporting the center, but the project ended in July. The funds for utilities ended. They submitted a request to the State to register the organization as a RAC so that the state can cover the utilities costs. The National Social Assistance Agency refused the request on the basis that the other RACs from Chisinau are at a 30% capacity, and it cannot be justified to add new RACs when other places are available in existing RACs. The residents decided to get involved and pay themselves for utilities. They started an advocacy campaign to show that they are able to provide services</li> </ul>	



	<p>– on <b>8 September they were granted the order on accreditation and they became a temporary refugee center.</b></p>	
<p><b>Discussions of DFT planning for 2023</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A workshop organized by the Protection WG is taking place on Monday 11 October to discuss the sector objectives, activities and indicators of the Refugee Response Plan for 2023.</li></ul>	<p>DFT to share with the members the next steps to include disability related issues in the RRP 2023</p>