



## Protection Working Group

Meeting Details	
<b>Date</b>	<i>14 December 2022 - Next meeting TBA</i>
<b>Time</b>	<i>10.00 am</i>
<b>Chair</b>	<i>Andrew Painter, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR, Sector Coordinator; Carolina Cazaciuc, Coordinator on Refugee Rights, Ombudsman Office, Co-Chair</i>
<b>Reporting</b>	<i>Sean Sager, Protection Officer, UNHCR</i>
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:painter@unhcr.org">painter@unhcr.org</a> , <a href="mailto:carolina.cazaciuc@ombudsman.md">carolina.cazaciuc@ombudsman.md</a> , <a href="mailto:sager@unhcr.org">sager@unhcr.org</a>
Agenda	
Welcome & Review of Agenda (10:00-10:05) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Situational update (10:05-10:20) (INTERSOS and CDA)</li></ul>	
Updates (10:20-10:30) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Protection Advisory Group (PAG)</li><li>• Temporary Protection (TP)</li><li>• Updated Guidance from Ukraine Ministry of Education</li></ul>	
Presentations (10:30-11:15) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AAP &amp; Protection Glossary and practical language resources (CLEAR Global)</li><li>• Keystone Needs Assessment Training</li></ul>	
Announcements	



AOB			
<b>Participants</b>			
<i>Andrew Painter, UNHCR</i>	<i>Andrei Hincu, CARE &amp; SERA</i>	<i>Jessica Black, INTERSOS</i>	<i>Stavros Zotos, PLAN</i>
<i>Sean Sager, UNHCR</i>	<i>Celine Brixander, UNFPA</i>	<i>Ludmila Malcoci, Keystone</i>	<i>Svetlana Jioara, CDA</i>
<i>Carolina Cazaciuc, Ombudsman Office</i>	<i>Chris Lomas, Hope4</i>	<i>Maja Mandrapa Terzic, DRC</i>	<i>Tatiana Arusoi, Hope4</i>
<i>Daniele Pedretti, HelpAge</i>	<i>Corina Gribincea, Keystone</i>	<i>Maria Vremis, Palladium</i>	<i>Fatima Wahaidy, UNFPA</i>
<i>Hanna Ursol, UNHCR</i>	<i>Dominique Louise Sbardella, Plan International</i>	<i>Marian Onica, Caritas Czech Republic</i>	<i>Victor Morari, OAP</i>
<i>Anca Soldubanu, CLEAR Global</i>	<i>Eloi Rouillon, Libraries Without Borders (BSF)</i>	<i>Mariana Mariuta, JEW</i>	<i>Viorica Toarta</i>
<i>Alberto Tonon, UNHCR-OHCHR</i>	<i>Emilija Davidovic, IRC</i>	<i>Maura Reap, WHO</i>	<i>Virgiliu Hangan, P4EC</i>
<i>Aliona Cara-Rusnac, AO Clinica Juridica</i>	<i>Eva Okonofua, Concordia</i>	<i>Nadejda Costin, CDF</i>	<i>Virginia M Moncrieff, IOM</i>
<i>Anatol Donu, CCR</i>	<i>Gianna Zoukidou, OHCHR</i>	<i>Rei Doj, Peace Winds</i>	
<i>Andi Szenasi, REACH</i>	<i>Giulia Cappellazzi, PIN</i>	<i>Petru Lupu, UNHCR</i>	
	<i>Irina Diaconsecu, CLEAR Global</i>	<i>Simona Ruznic, TdH NL</i>	
		<i>Sophie Dupont, Oxfam</i>	



### Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p><b>Agenda Point 1</b></p> <p><b>Welcome &amp; Review of Agenda</b></p> <p><i>Carolina Cazaciuc, Coordinator on Refugees Rights, Ombudsperson Office, Co-Chair.</i></p> <p><a href="mailto:carolina.cazaciuc@ombudsman.md">carolina.cazaciuc@ombudsman.md</a></p> <p><i>Andrew Painter, Senior Protection Officer, UNHCR</i></p> <p><a href="mailto:painter@unhcr.org">painter@unhcr.org</a></p>	<p>The <b>PWG co-chair</b> welcomed participants, thanked them for their presence, and encouraged them to attend in person for future meetings, in order to have more engaging discussions. He presented the agenda, and no objections were raised.</p> <p>If any modifications are necessary to minutes of the PWG, please contact: <a href="mailto:sager@unhcr.org">sager@unhcr.org</a></p>	<p>Agenda presented and agreed</p>



<p><b>Agenda Point 2</b></p> <p><b>Situational Updates</b></p> <p>Dania Trefi, Protection Manager, INTERSOS <a href="mailto:protection.manager.moldova@intersos.org">protection.manager.moldova@intersos.org</a></p> <p>Svetlana Jioara CDA/LCA <a href="mailto:svetlana.jioara@cda.md">svetlana.jioara@cda.md</a></p>	<p><i>INTERSOS provided a situational update from Palanca bus station.</i></p> <p>Over the past two weeks there has been a slight increase (10%) in arrivals, with an average of 60-70 individuals per day when there are evacuation buses, and around 20-30 individuals per day when there are not. On 6 &amp; 12 December, buses arranged by the organization <i>Gloria</i> arrived through Palanca BCP with persons of concern (PoC) from Kherson, Mykolaiv, Odesa, and Donetsk. Arrivals reported a lack of electricity, safe drinking water, food, and heating. It was also reported that it is mostly elderly persons who have stayed in Ukraine, mainly due to fear and/or limitations to mobility. Men continue to hide due to forced conscription. Stress levels are very high, with most arrivals exhibiting signs of anxiety and fear.</p> <p><i>CDA provided additional updates from the border</i></p> <p>10 Asylum Seekers (AS) were registered in the past two weeks at Palanca BCP, all of whom crossed the border illegally during the night. They were documented and entered asylum procedures. CDA is not able to engage in legal counseling at the BCP; this service is provided at the Palanca bus station. The Ukrainian border police are present on the transit road and are checking men rigorously. Over the last two weeks, CDA observed an increase the number of men of conscription age (18-60) who were able to cross into Moldova at the BCP without major issues. When approached by CDA, the men claimed that they did not need any assistance.</p> <p>Most arrivals intend on moving forward to other EU countries; those who remain have family and support networks in Moldova and plan to stay for the winter period. Many arrivals state that they intend to go to Transnistria due to</p>	
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a lower cost of living, especially utilities and rent. Third Country Nationals (TCN) often wait for a long time before being granted access to Ukraine. CDA observed an increase in Indian students travelling to Ukraine for studies. Five (5) cases of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) were documented; in all cases the guardianship authority intervened and provided papers with no further issues.

Regarding evacuations, ICRC ambulances left for Odesa to pick up sick persons and brought them to Chisinau Railway Hospital.

At Otaci BCP, the same pendular movements continue to be observed. No cases of UASC were reported.

At the Moldovan/Romanian border, no AS were registered. CDA observed a moderate influx of vehicles, a few of which had Ukrainian license plates. Arrivals expressed that they are returning to Ukraine to visit family/friends or to fix their documents.

At the Chisinau Airport BCP, CDA monitored 72 flights. Three (3) AS were officially registered, while 60 persons were denied entry to the territory and returned. Individuals arriving on flights from Istanbul and Tbilisi are checked thoroughly.

**Questions & Follow-up:**

Regarding the arrivals of conscription aged men, does CDA have any ideas as to why they are able to pass through the BCP without problems from Ukrainian soldiers? According to the CDA representative, nothing has changed. It is presumed that there may be “informal arrangements” being made.



<p><b>Agenda Point 3</b></p> <p><b>Update on Protection Advisory Group (PAG)</b></p> <p><i>Andrew Painter, Senior Protection Officer,</i></p> <p><i>UNHCR</i></p> <p><i>painter@unhcr.org</i></p>	<p>PWG co-chair provided an update on the Protection Advisory Group (PAG). The first PAG meeting took place last week to discuss a number of issues. A survey will be sent out to PWG members in order to gather inputs on activities and planning for 2023, including ideas on potential changes in format, modalities, and content of the PWG. It's an important exercise to look at the way in which the PWG is functioning and to discuss how it can be improved.</p> <p>One such proposal is to move from a bi-weekly format to a monthly format, given then there are many meetings to attend and that we are no longer in an emergency phase. Situational updates could continue to be shared in writing between the monthly meetings.</p> <p>Regarding format and content, it is proposed to include more interactive sessions on specific topics. This would involve planning the agenda further in advance, with discussion points that would better bring in the views and experiences of partners who are working in different parts of the country, so that they can report what they are seeing on the ground. Topics could be proposed in advance of the meeting, with one more or more partners providing a presentation and then facilitating a discussion. The goal is to make the PWG meetings as informative and interactive as possible.</p> <p>Another proposal is to focus more on training needs and the capacities of partners. The PAG recognizes that there are a lot of trainings happening, but what are the needs from PWG partners and what would be most beneficial to everyone.</p> <p>Finally, suggested priorities for the PWG going into the first quarter of 2023 are the workplan, contingency planning, and TP. PWG members should include their additional inputs in the survey that will be circulated.</p>	<p>UNHCR to send out survey monkey regarding PWG planning for 2023. PAG to meet before the next PWG in January.</p>
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	<p><b><u>Comments &amp; Discussion:</u></b></p> <p><i>Comments from the NRC representative:</i> it sounds reasonable to move to once a month, as long as there is still the opportunity to receive updates from the border. UNHCR representative confirmed that a consolidated report with partner activities, similar to what is being presented in the PWG, is being put together every week. It was suggested that this report be sent out to PWG members.</p> <p><i>Comments from the UNFPA representative:</i> situational updates would be great, as it is very interesting information to receive. It would also be good to expand this to include inputs from other non-UNHCR partners, in order to capture additional areas such as GBV and other people at risk. PWG co-chair stated that discussions regarding potential products to be produced from the PWG are also important. A suggestion was made to circulate the consolidated partner reports on a more frequent basis, but also to publish a more comprehensive protection report on monitoring activities from the different sectors. This could be less frequent, but more detailed.</p>	
<p><b>Agenda Point 4</b></p> <p><b>Update on Temporary Protection (TP)</b></p> <p><i>Andrew Painter, Senior Protection Officer,</i></p> <p><i>UNHCR</i></p> <p><a href="mailto:painter@unhcr.org">painter@unhcr.org</a></p>	<p>UNHCR co-chair provided an update on Temporary Protection (TP). Still waiting for a decision. UNHCR continues to work closely with BMA to prepare for the registration exercise, which will be a two-stage process. During the pre-enrollment stage, individuals will have to upload their documents. It is important that all organizations are aware of how this works, as it is likely that there will be confusion and requests for assistance. PWG will ask UNHCR registration colleagues to provide training on the pre-enrolment process, as people will need help enrolling and will have general questions on rights and services. Protection desks for legal and other counseling will also be present at BMA registration sites, staffed by CDA.</p>	<p>UNHCR to provide updates on TP when available, including information on upcoming trainings/ registration exercises</p>



	<p>Regarding proof of residence, this will likely be a big challenge, as it is a requirement for TP. UNHCR is seeking clarification, for example, on what documentation will suffice for those living in RACs. Those renting rooms or living with family members will likely now have to get something in writing. We should also not assume that everyone will want to apply for TP: we must explain the benefits and what will happen if they don't.</p>	
<p><b>Agenda Point 5</b></p> <p><b>Updated Guidance from Ukraine Ministry of Education</b></p> <p><i>Katherine Lampe, Co-Chair of Education Working Group,</i> <a href="mailto:lampe@unhcr.org">lampe@unhcr.org</a></p>	<p>UNHCR Child Protection Officer provided an overview of the updated guidance on school enrollment from the Ukraine Ministry of Education, which was released a few weeks ago. Although the previous guidance strongly supported children being enrolled in online classes, the new guidance has shifted to a support of children attending school in person in the countries where they are currently residing. The guidance further emphasizes the need to follow the laws of the hosting country when it comes to education, as well as the benefits of in person participation relating to socialization and local integration. Overall, this is seen as a positive development, as enrollment in Moldova is quite low (1800-2000). There is still a lot of reluctance by parents to enroll their children in school and hopefully this new guidance will promote enrollment.</p> <p>Follow-up question by HelpAge related to language of instruction in Moldovan schools and clarification of why parents are unwilling to enroll their children in local school. According to the co-chair of the Education WG, to the extent possible where there is availability, children can attend classes in both Russian and Ukrainian. Regarding the reasons for reluctance of parents to enroll their children, this is due to several reasons, including lack of language choices, viewing stay in Moldova as temporary, fears of local integration, general exhaustion, and issues related to full enrolment vs auditor status.</p>	<p>PWG Members to share this new guidance through their respective networks.</p>





<p><b>Agenda Point 6</b></p> <p><b>Presentation on AAP &amp; Protection Glossary and practical language resources (CLEAR Global)</b></p> <p>Anca Soldubanu, CLEAR Global <a href="mailto:anca.soldubanu@clearglobal.org">anca.soldubanu@clearglobal.org</a></p>	<p>A presentation on Practical Language Resources in relation to protection and accountability was given by CLEAR Global. For a full overview of the presentation, please consult the slides which were circulated to PWG members.</p> <p>The CLEAR Global Glossary including new terms on Protection and AAP can be found here:</p> <p><a href="https://glossaries.clearglobal.org/">https://glossaries.clearglobal.org/</a></p> <p>The glossary has been the product of work from many organizations which have contributed to the selection of terms, development of definitions, and the testing and validation of translations with staff, volunteers, and community members. The term list and definitions were agreed as part of a wide consultation process with citizens who are working on the humanitarian response in Poland and Romania, and with Ukrainians both within and outside Ukraine.</p>	<p>UNHCR to circulate presentation and resources to PWG members.</p>
<p><b>Presentation on Needs Assessment (Keystone)</b></p> <p>Ludmila Malcoci, Keystone <a href="mailto:lmalcoci@khs.org">lmalcoci@khs.org</a></p>	<p>A presentation on a recent needs assessment on support to refugees with disabilities was given by Keystone.</p> <p>One important follow-up discussion from the presentation was regarding the mechanism for disability determination in Moldova, in terms of access to the distinction needed for Ukrainian refugees living in Moldova. Discussions are ongoing to further confirm what is needed in terms of recognized documentation so that Ukrainian refugees have access to needed services on both sides of the border. Further updates will be shared with PWG members when available.</p> <p>For a full overview of the presentation, please consult the slides which were circulated to PWG members.</p>	<p>UNHCR to circulate presentation and to provide any updates regarding disability determination for Ukrainian refugee in Moldova.</p>



<p><b>Agenda Point 6 Announcements</b></p> <p><i>Sean Sager, Protection Officer, UNHCR</i></p> <p><a href="mailto:sager@unhcr.org">sager@unhcr.org</a></p>	<p>UNHCR provided several announcements to PWG members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Regarding the <b>RRP</b>, a <u>presentation of final figures will be made at the upcoming Refugee Coordination Forum on the 19 December</u>. This will include the final number of partners, budget, as well as regional and country specific targets based on the indicators agreed upon during the sectoral workshop in October. All PWG members were encouraged to attend.</li><li>- Regarding the <b>ActivityInfo platform</b>, another <u>training will be held this Friday 16 December between 11-12:30</u>. The platform is now open until 27 December for reporting on RRP 2022 achievements for the period covering March-June. PWG members were strongly encouraged to attend the training, as ActivityInfo reporting will replace the current 5W system in 2023. Inter-Agency will no longer reach out to partners for updates; this information will be extracted from the platform. In order to attend the training, partners should pre-register in order to get permission to access the platform.</li><li>- Regarding <b>EU+ Air Transfers</b>, it was announced that a chartered flight to Germany will leave sometime before Christmas. For those who have not enrolled yet, they should do so by filling out the online enrolment form sent earlier in the week. For those who have previously enrolled, they should contact the EU+ Air Transfer team directly (contact information disseminated via email).</li></ul>	<p>PWG members to participate in the upcoming forums and trainings where needed.</p> <p>Information regarding the EU+ Air Transfer program to be circulated by PWG members.</p>
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### Information collection and relevant links

Moldova operational data portal: <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784>

UNHCR Regional Bureau for Europe: The Implementation of the Temporary Protection Directive - Six Months On (October 2022)

<https://reliefweb.int/report/poland/unhcr-regional-bureau-europe-implementation-temporary-protection-directive-six-months-october-2022>

*If necessary, feel free to add extra rows in the matrix above.*