



## Protection Working Group

Meeting Details	
<b>Date</b>	<i>18 January 2023 - Next meeting 15 February 2023</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>• PWG Survey Results</li><li>• Temporary Protection (TP)</li></ul>	
Presentations (10:30-11:30) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Access to medical care for refugees (WHO)</li><li>• Human Rights Monitoring in Ukraine (OHCHR)</li></ul>	
AOB	



<b>Participants</b>			
<i>Andrew Painter, UNHCR</i>	<i>Andrei Hincu, CARE &amp; SERA</i>	<i>Cornelia Vintea-Crecran, UNFPA</i>	<i>Stela Gheorghita, WHO</i>
<i>Sean Sager, UNHCR</i>	<i>Celine Brixander, UNFPA</i>	<i>Krassimir Yankov, OHCHR</i>	<i>Alexandru Voloc, WHO</i>
<i>Carolina Cazaciuc, Ombudsman Office</i>	<i>Carolina Sclifos, UNHCR</i>	<i>Dina Zamfirova, IOM</i>	<i>Maria Scicchitano, WHO</i>
<i>Daniele Pedretti, HelpAge</i>	<i>Chris Lomas, Hope4</i>	<i>Marina Bozkurt, UNHCR</i>	<i>Stefania Martello, ACTED</i>
<i>Hanna Ursol, UNHCR</i>	<i>Dania Trefi, INTERSOS</i>	<i>Martina Bogdeva, UNHCR</i>	<i>Svetlana Jioara, CDA</i>
<i>Denis Raileou, Peace Winds</i>	<i>Cristina Ceclu, PIN</i>	<i>Sachiko Kumazawa, AAR Japan</i>	<i>Tatiana Arusoi, Hope4</i>
<i>Lyydia Makinen, Oxfam</i>	<i>Daniela David-Cimpoies, UNW</i>	<i>Rei Doi, Peace Winds</i>	<i>Victor Morari, OAP</i>
<i>Adrian Trifan</i>	<i>Emilija Davidovic, IRC</i>	<i>Petru Lupu, UNHCR</i>	<i>Violina Nazaria, IOM</i>
<i>Anca Soldubanu, CLEAR Global</i>	<i>Erselia Apreada, IOM</i>	<i>Simona Ruznic, TdH NL</i>	<i>Yui Hirade, AAR Japan</i>
<i>Alberto Tonon, UNHCR-OHCHR</i>	<i>Fatima Wahaidy, UNFPA</i>	<i>Vitalie Popov, Green Line</i>	<i>Virginia M Moncrieff, IOM</i>
	<i>Gianna Zoukidou, OHCHR</i>		
	<i>Ina Rusu, ADRA</i>		



## Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p><b>Agenda Point 1</b></p> <p><b>Welcome, Review of Agenda, and Results of PWG Survey</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>Before continuing on with the agenda, the PWG co-chair shared the results of the recent survey which was circulated to PWG members. The PWG will now move from its regular bi-weekly format to a monthly schedule. Operational/situational updates will be sent in writing on a bi-weekly basis.</p> <p>The format of the PWG will also shift to a more thematic discussion, where a relevant topic will be introduced, presented, and discussed amongst the participants, in order to gather a better understanding of what's happening on the ground. The thematic topic of the next PWG will be on Temporary Protection (TP). The draft decision on TP is expected to be confirmed today and is expected to go into effect on 1 March 2023. An information session will take place soon in order to inform all actors of the registration process and provide a forum for partners to ask questions</p>	<p>Agenda presented and agreed</p>



<p><b>Agenda Point 2</b></p> <p><b>Situational Updates</b></p> <p><i>Dania Trefi, Protection Manager, INTERSOS</i> <a href="mailto:protection.manager.moldova@intersos.org">protection.manager.moldova@intersos.org</a></p> <p><i>Svetlana Jioara CDA/LCA</i> <a href="mailto:svetlana.jioara@cda.md">svetlana.jioara@cda.md</a></p>	<p><i>CDA provided updates from the border</i></p> <p>20 Asylum Seekers (AS) were registered in the past two weeks at Palanca BCP, 10 of whom crossed the green border illegally. They were documented and placed into asylum procedures. There were some instances of power shortages at the BCP, and on one day individuals crossing at the Tudora BCP were redirected to Palanca. The Ukrainian border police continue to be present on the transit road and are checking persons.</p> <p>During the reporting period, there was an increase in individuals both entering and leaving the Republic of Moldova due to the holidays. Most were going to Transnistria (80%) to visit family, or continuing on to EU countries such as Germany, Lithuania, and Romania.</p> <p>17 cases of unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) were documented; in all cases the guardianship authority intervened and provided papers with no further issues.</p> <p>Third Country Nationals (TCN) are being checked rigorously before being granted access to Ukraine. In some cases, individuals are not permitted to enter.</p> <p>Regarding evacuations, the NGO Hope and Faith organized several buses for individuals coming from Kyiv, Kherson, and Mykolaiv, which passed through Palanca BCP and continues onwards to Germany.</p> <p>At Otaci BCP, the same pendular movements continue to be observed. Most arrivals declare their intention to remain in Moldova; some come to receive cash.</p>	<p>UNHCR to circulate situational updates to PWG members on a bi-weekly basis.</p>
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The same issue as previously reported of TCNs with expired residence permits in Ukraine was observed. In some cases, TCNs with valid residence permits were denied entry to Ukraine for various reasons.

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

At the Chisinau Airport BCP, CDA monitored flights arriving from various countries including Istanbul, Yerevan, Tbilisi, and Bucharest. No UASC were reported. 70 persons were denied entry to the territory and returned because they could not justify their stay in Moldova.

*INTERSOS provided a situational update from Palanca bus station.*

Arrivals to Palanca Bus Hub remain low, with most individuals coming from Odesa, Mykolaiv, Vinnystia, and Kherson; a few cases came from third countries such as Russia, Romania and Azerbaijan. Some arrivals expressed their intention to stay in Moldova, while others continued to EU countries. In some cases, arrivals complained that taxi drivers were taking advantage of refugees and overcharging for transportation, an issue that is being reported more frequently.

Arrivals reported a general lack of electricity, safe drinking water, food, and heating. Stress levels were very high, with most arrivals exhibiting signs of anxiety and fear. Most arrivals came from vulnerable groups, including single women, members of the Roma community, elderly persons, and men fleeing conscription. Some cases of men intentionally breaking their own arms or feet in order to avoid military service were reported.



In **Dnipro**, arrivals reported continued explosions and that the situation is intense; residential buildings are being targeted. In **Kherson**, availability of medications is decreasing. In the remote villages, houses are partially or completely destroyed, but elderly persons continue to stay. Aid is available in big cities, while remote locations have less assistance.

**Questions & Follow-up:**

Regarding the issue with taxi drivers overcharging for transportation, is this happening on the Ukrainian side or the Moldovan side? **The Ukrainian side. (INTERSOS)**

Regarding why some individuals are being denied entry to Ukraine, what is the reason? ***These are TCNs who are checked by border guards and are being denied because they cannot justify their travel to Ukraine. No more information is provided as this is being done by Ukrainian authorities. (CDA)***

***Many are students and their residence permits have expired; some lost scholarships so their residence permits were not extended. Some cases where families from Azerbaijan had been living in Ukraine for 20 years but didn't have residence permits, but these are a few cases. (IOM)***

Regarding entry requirements for Ukrainians entering Moldova from Romania, is a biometric passport needed? **Yes, for Ukrainian nationals who are coming to Moldova from a third country, a biometric passport is needed. (CES decision, point 8)**



<p><b>Agenda Point 3</b></p> <p><b>Presentation on access to medical care for refugees (WHO)</b></p> <p><i>Dr. Stela Gheorghita, Co-Chair of the Health and Nutrition IA TWG</i></p> <p><a href="mailto:gheorghitas@who.int">gheorghitas@who.int</a></p>	<p>Co-Chair of the Health and Nutrition IA TWG gave a presentation on access to medical care for refugees in Moldova. For a full overview of the presentation, please consult the slides provided to PWG members.</p> <p>Following the presentation, the WHO representative provided answers to selected questions previously submitted by UNHCR and AAP taskforce regarding access to medical services for refugees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• One of the main issues of concern is communication with the health system and understanding how the system and referrals function.</li><li>• The services available to refugees comes directly from the Ministry of Health (Order #166) and functionally they get the equivalent of rights and obligations of the host population.</li><li>• In terms of medications, there is a list of essential medicines that have been approved by the Ministry of Health (over 600 medicines) which was last updated in October of 2022. If eligible, refugees can receive compensation for the purchase of these medicines.</li><li>• For HIV and TB, where services can be accessed, there is the national program for each respective disease. The main point of entry is the primary healthcare facility which has the ability to diagnose and refer to the national program free of charge.</li><li>• Regarding reproductive and mental health, the point of entry is primary healthcare. Individuals can be referred by family doctors to these centers. There is a lack of understanding by doctors, however, and refugees are sometimes rejected from being referred and/or reimbursed. More information sharing is needed to be provided by the Ministry of Health in this matter to address these communication issues.</li></ul> <p>Representatives from IOM, UNICEF, and UNFPA also provided short summaries regarding the health services that their respective organizations.</p>	<p>Follow-up Q&amp;A to be held in the coming weeks in order for PWG members to ask further questions and provide examples of medical issues identified.</p>
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	<p><b>UNFPA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Covering all medical services for women between the age of 18-55 through an agreement with the national health insurance.</li></ul> <p><b>IOM</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Has a service agreement with the oncology institute for the provision of cancer treatment for refugees and TCNs.</li><li>➤ Health assessments provided for refugees who are relocating to other countries (Canada, US, New Zealand, etc.).</li><li>➤ Providing urgent medicines; chemotherapy services to be provided starting in February 2023.</li><li>➤ Extension of an existing service agreement past March 2023 for the provision of Dialysis treatment.</li><li>➤ Signed agreement with community center Botanica providing mental health services for refugees and TCNs.</li><li>➤ Information is being provided through protection and MHPSS teams to refugees to let them know of their rights. UNHCR is also referring cases to IOM. IOM is also distributing communication materials at BCPs, RACs, host community.</li><li>➤ Assisting with medical evacuations from Palanca BCP and through the EU Air Transfers program.</li></ul> <p><b>UNICEF</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Reimbursing the state medical insurance for medical services being provided to children.</li></ul>	
<b>Agenda Point 4</b>	Representative from the United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine gave a presentation on the Mission and its mandate in Moldova. For a	UNHCR to circulate presentation slides to PWG members.





<p><b>Presentation on Human Rights Monitoring in Ukraine (OHCHR)</b></p> <p><i>Krassimir Yankov, United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine</i></p> <p><a href="mailto:krassimir.yankov@un.org">krassimir.yankov@un.org</a></p>	<p>full overview of the presentation, please consult the slides circulated to PWG members.</p> <p>Participants were encouraged to contact the Mission if they identify persons in Moldova who experienced human rights violations in Ukraine, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Victims, witnesses, or those with knowledge of human rights violations inside of Ukraine after 24 February 2022 regardless of the alleged perpetrator<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· Injured and killed civilians (from the hostilities or willful killings)</li><li>· Arbitrary detentions and enforced disappearances</li><li>· Forced transfer (evacuation) of persons</li><li>· People who suffered abuse during their travel to Moldova (extortion, physical or psychological violence)</li></ul></li><li>➤ Vulnerable groups<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>· LGBTI</li><li>· Roma</li><li>· Persons with disabilities</li><li>· Single mothers</li><li>· Unaccompanied children</li><li>· Older persons</li><li>· Persons who have lost a breadwinner</li></ul></li><li>➤ Persons who attempted to access support/shelter in Ukraine but were declined/unable to do so</li></ul> <p><b><u>Referrals can be made directly to OHCHR below:</u></b></p> <p>Krassimir Yankov Phone: <b>+373 62 028 512</b> Messengers (Viber, Telegram, Signal, WhatsApp): <b>+380 50 499 35 82</b></p>	
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	Email: <b>krassimir.yankov@un.org</b>  Gianna Zoukidou Phone: <b>+373 60 393 842</b> Email: <b>gianna.zoukidou@un.org</b>	
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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>

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