



PROTECTION WORKING GROUP/DISABILITY TASKFORCE (DTF)

| Meeting Details | |
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| Date | 12.08.2022 - Next meeting on 09.09.2022 |
| Time | 11.00-12.00 am |
| Chair | Ludmila Malcoci, Executive Director, Keystone Moldova |
| Reporting | Ludmila Ciocan, DTF Secretariat Coordinator, Keystone Moldova |
| Email | lmalcoci@khs.org |
| Agenda | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Welcome & Presentation of Agenda2. Updates on the assistance of refugees with disabilities by NGOs3. Challenges related to educational inclusion of refugee children with special educational needs and disabilities4. Disability Taskforce ToR | |
| Information collection and relevant links | |
| Moldova operational data portal: https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784 | |
| Participants | |
| UNHCR | Keystone Moldova |
| OHCHR | CASMED |
| UNDP | Association of Entrepreneurs with |
| UNICEF | Disabilities from Moldova |
| IOM | Pas cu Pas Educational Program |
| WHO | |
| Humanity for Inclusion | |
| HelpAge International | |
| IM Swedish Development Partner | |



Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

| Agenda | Discussion | Agreements/ Actions |
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| Welcome & Presentation of Agenda | <p>Ludmila Ciocan announced that Ludmila Malcoci, Keystone Moldova Executive Director and DTF Chair is not available to moderate the meeting as she accompanies the US Special Advisor on International Disability Rights, Sara Minkara, who visits the Republic of Moldova this week. She informed that during Ms. Minkara's meetings with senior government officials, civil society organizations, international organization representatives and service providers for persons with disabilities the focus will be on further supporting the needs of refugees with disabilities from Ukraine and increasing support for persons with disabilities from Moldova.</p> <p>The agenda of the meeting was presented and the participants were invited to intervene, if there are new initiatives or important information to share that could be useful for better shaping interventions or strengthening synergies between different projects related to the assistance of refugees with disabilities.</p> | |
| Updates on the assistance of refugees with disabilities by NGOs | <p>Regarding the assistance provided to refugees with disabilities by NGOs, Keystone Moldova representative informed that in total 88 persons with disabilities and serious chronic diseases received support from five NGOs during the last two weeks. Keystone Moldova, CASMED, SOS Autism, Low Vision and Voinicel provided different types of services and goods to refugees with disabilities and 85% of the total number of refugees with disabilities was assisted by Keystone Moldova.</p> <p>Anwar Sadat, HelpAge International, asked about the type of assistance provided to refugees with chronic diseases and challenges. He informed also that there is an initiative to establish SPSS for care of persons with chronic diseases. He offered to check with his colleagues responsible for Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL) and to make a presentation for the next meeting.</p> | <p>Activity: To prepare a presentation related to the care of persons with chronic diseases after re-checking the SPSS datasets with colleagues responsible for MEAL (Anwar Sadat, HelpAge International)</p> <p>Deadline: Until next DTF meeting</p> |



Diana Tudos, Keystone Moldova Coordinator of the Toll-Free Hotline for persons with disabilities was invited to speak about the challenges faced by refugees with disabilities who call at the Toll-Free Hotline for assistance and those who are referred to Keystone Moldova Mobile Team. The main **health's problems** communicated to Keystone Moldova team by refugees with disabilities and chronic diseases and needs for assistance are as follows:

- Exacerbation of chronic diseases due to stress especially in case of elderly refugee (for instance, many persons had cerebrovascular accidents, myocardial infarction after arriving in the Republic of Moldova). As the result, the number of medication requests increased (now, in 80% of cases, the Mobile Team interventions consists in medical consultation, procurement and distribution of medicines);
- Lack of tests in the Republic of Moldova for glucometers issued in Ukraine and the need to offer glucometers and test to diabetic refugees; the refugees with type one diabetes are covered with insulin, but the refugees with type two diabetes need pills that should be procured by themselves: this appears to be a huge challenge for many refugees;
- Refugees with hypertension usually ask blood pressure measuring devices and medicines;
- Refugees suffering from Hepatitis C require antiviral treatment which is expensive and in the Republic of Moldova and they are not provided with this treatment;
- There are problems related to the treatment of cancer or blood disorders, in many cases it is difficult to identify of analog drugs in the Republic of Moldova to continue the treatment prescribed in Ukraine. The Institute of Oncology offers free consultations to refugee with cancer, but does not cover their treatment. The tendency is to refer these refugees to hospitals in other countries. Some of them do not want to go in other countries and the procedure for identification of a hospital abroad take time.

Activity: To prepare an Information Note on behalf of the DTF for the



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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the last weeks, many parents asked for ophthalmological consultations and procurement of glasses for children; according to them previously their children did not have sight problems, but the situation changed in several months. <p>There are also problems are related to accommodation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is difficult to identify accommodation for refugees with severe disabilities (especially physically disabled and immobilized persons, persons with mental health problems) and those who intend to stay only several days in the Republic of Moldova and then go to another country; • The RACs refuse to accommodate refugees with severe disabilities and their caregivers; At the same time, there is a lack of sufficient caregivers in RACs to provide the necessary care to persons with severe disabilities; • There is a lack of a clear Covid-19 testing procedure for refugees (at the border crossing or within the RACs) in case of quarantine; persons came to RACs and they are not accepted to be accommodated in case the tests are positive and no concrete alternative solution is offered by RACs administration. • The RACs' administration argue that there not enough places in RACs (especially when the accommodation is requested by persons with severe disabilities) but at the same time, many RACs were closed. <p>Tatiana Cernomorit, OHCHR, proposed to invite the Health Working Group representatives under the UNHCR to the DTF meeting to discuss the health issues mentioned above or to develop an Information Note for them based on the identified problems to identify joint solutions.</p> | <p>Health WG related to the assistance challenges of refugees with chronic diseases Deadline: Until next DTF meeting</p> |
| <p>Challenges related to educational inclusion of refugee children with special educational needs and disabilities</p> | <p>Ludmila Ciocan announced that the Education WG requested the DTF to discuss and to make a presentation related to the problems, needs and possible solutions for educational inclusion of refugee children with special educational needs. She proposed the DTF participants to provide inputs on these issues. The main challenges and gaps educational inclusion highlighted by the DTF participants are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a lack of data on Ukrainian refugee children with special educational needs and disabilities living in the Republic of Moldova. Their number and | <p>Activity: To prepare a presentation on behalf of the DTF for the Education WG related to the educational inclusion of children with special educational needs and disabilities</p> |



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| | <p>placement locations (rayons/villages and municipalities/sectors) are not available yet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• During the last months of the school year 2021-2022, the Republican Center for Psycho-Pedagogical Assistance (CRAP) monitored 20 refugee children with special educational needs placed in different locations. Now, it is not clear for CRAP how many children with special educational needs should be assessed and supported in the upcoming school year.• Data on Ukrainian refugee children with special educational needs and disabilities living in the Republic of Moldova who attended online lessons organized by education institutions where they studied in Ukraine during the last months of the school year 2021-2022 are not available, also.• No research was conducted to assess the preferences of parents and children with special educational needs related to the educational process modality: online study with Ukrainian teachers or inclusion in Moldovan schools. It is not clear yet how many refugee families can help their children with disabilities to use the available online resources.• Refusal of some schools to enroll children in case their refugee status was not determined;• Impossibility to prove the immunizations required for school by parents as they do not have access to the medical files left in Ukraine;• Assessment of special educational needs is required for the development of Personalized Learning Plans and recommendations for appropriate support services (support teacher, personal assistant etc.);• Big distances between the locations where children are placed and the schools with Russian language teaching programs, especially in rural areas (in case of children who speak Russian); Language represent another barrier for school inclusion in case of children who speak Ukrainian;• Limited financial resources of schools to ensure the necessary support for children with special educational needs and disabilities, both refugees and nationals; | <p>(challenges and recommendations) Deadline: Until next Education WG meeting (August, 19 or September,2)</p> <p>Activity: To ask the NGOs working in disability field to provide information on the locations where children with special educational needs and disabilities are placed (rayons/villages/municipalities/sectors and the number of children of school age)</p> <p>Deadline: Until next DTF meeting</p> <p>Activity: To contact the first deputy director of the Ukrainian Institute for Education</p> |
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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of adapted school transport;• Lack of adapted schoolbooks;• Lack of personal learning spaces for children of different ages who are placed in Refugee Accommodation Centers (usually, they stayed in the same room when connecting to the online courses);• Lack of personal computers and limited access to Internet in case of many children (some of them used their mobile phones to connect to online courses); <p>As a solution for lack of data on children with special educational needs and disabilities were proposed two actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To ask the NGOs that provide assistance to refugee children with special educational needs and disabilities to provide information on the locations they are places (rayons/villages/municipalities/sectors and the number of children of school age), acknowledging the difficulties in obtaining this data due to summer holidays and lack of staff to perform a mapping exercise within NGOs.• The local authorities (Rayonal/Municipal Departments responsible for Education, Youth and Sports) and schools should also provide information on the number of school age refugee children with special educational needs and disabilities and their locations to the Ministry of Education in order to improve the access to education of these children. <p>Related to the access to school books and materials, Cornelia Cincilei, Educational Program Pas cu Pas (Step by Step) Director, informed that the e-learning platform for distance learning developed by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine https://lms.e-school.net.ua/ is a good resource for children to continue their study. She also mentioned that the schoolbooks in electronic format were uploaded on the platform by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. As a good practice of working with refugee children with special educational needs, she mentioned the Learning Loss Groups organized for different school subjects/curricula by hiring Ukrainian teachers and printing materials for children. She offered to contact the first deputy director of the Ukrainian Institute for Education Development (UIED) established by the Ministry of</p> | <p>Development on issues related to the schoolbook for refugee children with special educational needs and disabilities by Cornelia Cincilei, Pas cu Pas</p> <p>Deadline: Until next DTF meeting</p> |
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| | <p>Education and Science to support educational reforms for finding joint solutions related to the schoolbook for refugee children with special educational needs and disabilities.</p> <p>A joint message of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education and Research to schools is needed to facilitate the enrolment of refugee children in the educational process, taking into consideration the immunization issues and the refugee/special protection status.</p> | |
| Disability Taskforce ToR | <p>Ludmila Ciocan developed the Disability Taskforce ToR and sent it to members for reviews and comments previously of the meeting. It was decided to upload the documents in the SharePoint file for reviews/ comments and to discuss in one of the next meetings the inputs provided by the DTF members, in case of proposals for modification/adjustment.</p> | <p>Activity: To upload the ToR in the SharePoint file for reviews/ comments by the DTF members</p> <p>Deadline: after the current DTF meeting</p> |