

Poland - Child Protection Sub Working Group

Meeting Minutes – 30 March 2022

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| Meeting subject: | Weekly National Child Protection Sub-Working Group Meeting |
| Time & location: | Wednesdays, 14:00 - 15:00 hrs, virtual meeting |
| Chaired by: | Renata Szredzińska - FDDS, Sophie Etzold - UNHCR, Daniela Knoppik - UNICEF |
| Minutes prepared by: | Daniela Knoppik, UNICEF |
| Participants: | Monika Mrowczynska, Gość; Kateryna Krakhmalova; Joanna Kuzebska, FPMW; Caterina Franchi, Safe Passage International; İrem Göl, SGDD Asam; Nina Mocior, PAH; Glenn Gloss, Americares; Maria Bikou, Faros Elpidas; Renata Szredzińska, FDDS; Łukasz Tomik, Happy Kids; François Kernin, UNHCR; Ada Tymińska, HFHR; Aleksandra Wisniewska, Happy Kids; Katerina Brzicova, Lutheran World; Enrica Prias, ActionAid; Laurence Vanderborre, The Red Pencil; Theano Pyrovolisianou, Faros Elpidas; Clare Bathgate, Plan International; Loretta Jesudoss, UNHCR; S. Brudnoch, Humandoc; Denise Santos, Global Ahead; Hanna Dobrzynska, IOM; Marion Abboud, CRS; Jessica Granito, AVSI; Bianka Zyra, Plan International; Kayla Lichtman, LIRS; Laurence, The Red Pencil; Julia Szymczakiewicz, UN Global Compact; Przemysław Macholak, Happy Kids; Safi Lashley, the RET; Ewa Gierszewska, IOM; Ivana Chapcaková, UNICEF; Piotr Lukawski, SOS WD; Anna Krawczak, FDDS; Tamar Joanian, UNHCR; Anne Guyot, Save the Children; Samar Ali, Save the Children; Safi Lashley, RET; Julia Szymczakiewicz, UNGC; Başak Kütahya, SGGD-ASAM; Amy Greenbank, CARE; Loretta Jesudoss, UNHCR; Pantelis Dimitriou, Faros Elpidas; Ben Cope, Our Choice Foundation; Sophie Etzold, UNHCR, Jessica Caplin, UNHCR, Martina Tomic-Latinac, UNICEF; Daniela Knoppik, UNICEF |
| Agenda: | <p>Agenda</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Update on coordination (Daniela – UNICEF) 2) Child Protection risks and concerns (Sophie – UNHCR) 3) Presentation on the Referral Pathway (Renata - FDDS) 4) UNHCR Cash assistance programme (Jessica Caplin – UNHCR) 5) AOB |
| Agenda point 1 | <p>Coordination updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reminder to (re)submit RRP project plans until 31 March to UNHCR - Short guidance on UASC and Cash will be drafted and shared with CP SWG members - Final ToR for CP SWG will be made available on Sharepoint - Co-leads working on referral pathway – priority given to Warsaw and upcoming Blue Dot sites |

Agenda point 2

Child protection risks and concerns

- **Separation of children**
 - Challenges in identification and documentation of children at risk/ UASC
 - Limited awareness of support and appropriate referral pathways
- **Challenges of parents and caregivers to adequately care**
 - Guidance on how to support children with distress
 - Single parents with limited information on where to access support for child care
 - Limited reluctance to access services anticipating return
- **Risk of trafficking of children from borders and reception sites**
 - Regional approach to children on the move
 - Racking, identification and referrals and RFL
 - Potential risks of teenage boys/ young adults (18+) to return to Ukraine and being recruited/ pendular movements ongoing
- **Risk of GBV against children**
- **High levels of distress/ MHPSS needs amongst children and caregivers**
- **Heightened risk of children with disability**
- **Limited awareness on child-friendly procedures** and child protection risks at borders and of other stakeholders
 - Limited knowledge of large number of volunteers on child safeguarding and child protection
- **Timely enrolment to education**
 - Risk of adolescents to drop out of school
 - Limited number of teachers and infrastructure
 - Children/ adolescents accessing online education through MoE in Ukraine (need for online spaces where children access internet-based platforms)
- **Risk of increasing host community tensions**



- At UNHCR Cash enrollment/ Blue Dot site in Warsaw: as at 30 March 147 UASC identified
- Among volunteers: limited awareness of what to do and how to refer UASC

Child protection needs assessment

- Limited data on number of children at risk/ UASC in Poland and locations of residence and assistance of children being hosted by family-based care
- Limited knowledge on the capacity of the national system to cater for large number of children in need of CP services
- Access to information on children with disabilities
- Need for child protection assessment evident
 - Key ask from members: *any agency undertake an assessment, please inform the CP SWG co-chairs (UNHCR/UNICEF and FDDS) at the planning stage and upon finalization; outcomes to be made available for sectors*



Agenda point 3

Presentation on the referral pathway



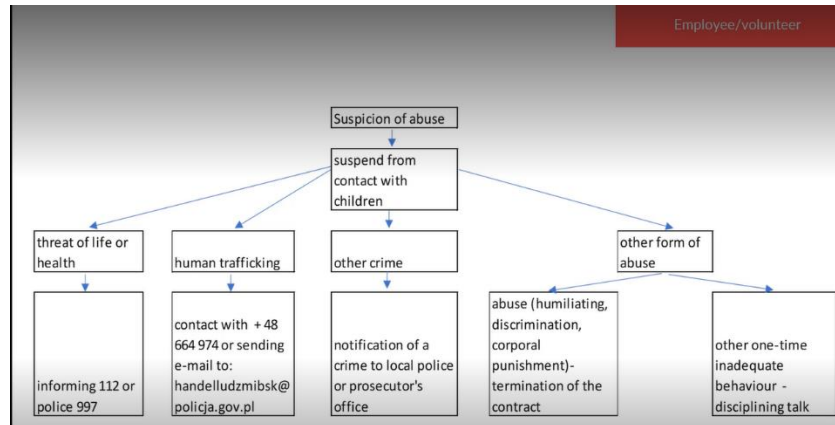
Prezentacja_referrals
_Child_protection_30(

(presentation also available on sharepoint: <https://unicef.sharepoint.com/teams/ECARO-URP/DocumentLibrary2/Forms/AllItems.aspx?viewid=0999db9f%2Da08b%2D4730%2Db909%2D78b4a1ebfe50>)

Polish legal provisions:

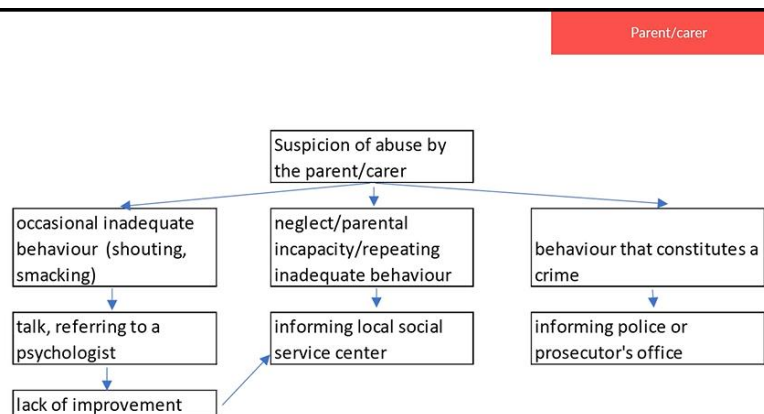
- New Special Act gives Ukrainian families same rights and obligations as Polish families; but Ukrainian children in care do not have the same rights as Polish children in care
- For specific legal questions, you can reach out to lawyers at FDDS via Renata (renata.szredzinska@fdds.pl)
- In Poland: definition of a child: everyone under the age of 18

If the perpetrator is an employee or volunteer:



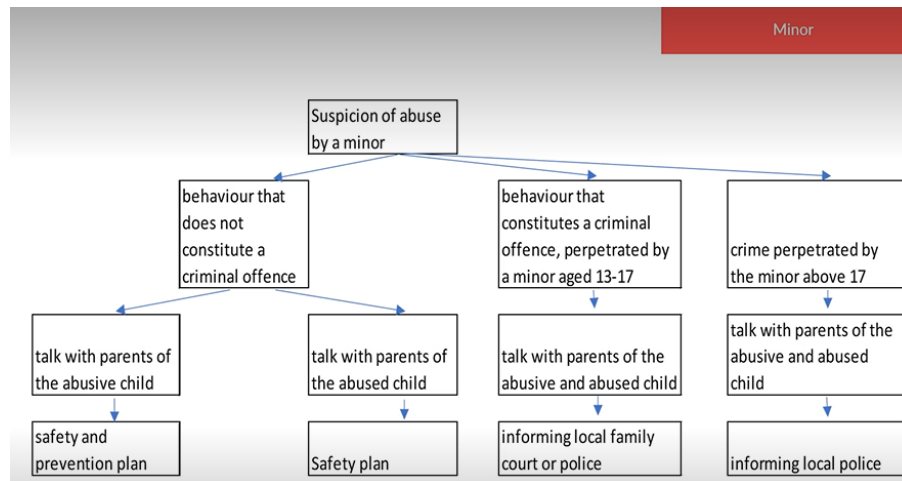
- hotline 112: emergency services (ambulance and police)
- 997: police hotline

If the perpetrator is a parent/caretaker:

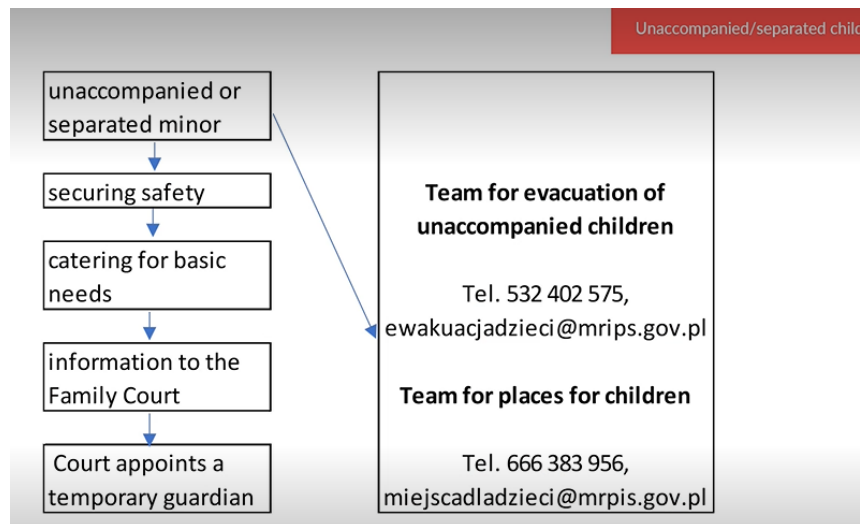


- No separate Child Protection services in Poland/ no separate service which coordinates efforts to protect children => this forms part of the local service center which operates at every municipality
- Overview of social service centers: <https://rjps.mpips.gov.pl/RJPS/WJ/start.do?wersja=1>

If the perpetrator is a minor (abuse between peers):



Referral pathway for UASC:



- UAC: refer to Team for evacuation of unaccompanied children (under Ministry of Family)

Inform the Family Court:

Overview of territorial jurisdiction of courts in Poland, currently available in Polish:
<https://isap.sejm.gov.pl/isap.nsf/download.xsp/WDU20210001269/O/D20211269.pdf>

Referral form to Family Court:

Due to the amendment on the special act, the Iustitia Association of Polish Judges modified the form to the court to appoint a temporary guardian. Please find it here: https://www.iustitia.pl/79-informacje/4422-zaktualizowana-wersja-formularza-wniosku-o-ustanowienie-opiekuna-tymczasowego-dla-maloletniego-obywatela-ukrainy#xd_co_f=YWI5ODA1NjAtODgzZS00ODViLTg5NDMtZjk2NzgxNjQzMzg4~

English translation:



Referral Form Family
Court Guardian as of :

- Without formal care (appointment of temporary guardian) the child will not be able to access services

Pathway for separated children:

- If child is separated (with another member of the family with no legal proof to be able to represent child's interest) – still have to inform family court to formalise guardianship

Q&A:

- Who is responsible for informing family court? First person who identified child (can contact evacuation team for assistance)
- Can this go through center of social services? Challenge they function between 8AM – 4PM, outside of these hours have to inform Family Court
- This applies to all Ukrainian UASC, third country nationals go through different procedures
- Local NGOs under Polish law not entitled to do case management for CP, public services are responsible (social services) NGOs can be asked to support/ participate



contact: renata.szredzinska@fdds.pl

zdjęcia i ikony: <https://pl.freepik.com/>,
pixabay.com i unsplash.com

FDDS hotline: 800 100 100

- operating in Polish and Russian
- free of charge
- hotline for carers and staff of organisations
- operational between 12-3PM, possible plans to extend hours

<https://fdds.pl/>

Referral Pathways for children at risk and unaccompanied or separated refugee children

- Important tool in the coordination of a response to ensure timely and efficient response to children at risk including UASC of all actors (not only CP actors)
- Development of a simple template to be used to document:
 - Overall roles and responsibilities in Poland
 - Actors activities and involvement for case management/ non-case management programs



Referral Pathways – Way forward

- Process of compiling generic referral pathways
- Specific referral pathways to Blue Dots and access to services
- Timeline:
 - next week initial template and generic by beginning of April
 - Blue Dots is live document as they are in process of development



Q&A:

Q: What is the current situation of evacuation of children from residential care from Ukraine, has there been a halt?

A: Two Social workers based in Stalowa Wola to provide assistance to exchange info between governments of Poland and Ukraine; Ministry of Ukraine halted evacuations until MoU signed and operational; Government of Ukraine sent out same MoU to other EU member states to propose same bilateral agreements and have in place a common approach

What UNHCR's Cash Programme is and what it is not

- UNHCR is providing short-term cash assistance to new arrivals from Ukraine to support their transition and integration
- **It is not a government cash programme.** The programme is **different** from any support by the Government of Poland, including PESEL registration
- **It is not refugee registration.** UNHCR does **not** conduct refugee registration or status determination in Poland. It is **only** enrolment for humanitarian assistance



Who is eligible for UNHCR cash assistance?

- Individuals and their family are eligible if they fled Ukraine and entered Poland on or after **24 February 2022**
- Only **one** family member needs to have left on or after 24 February
- This includes **Third Country Nationals**
- Children should be accompanied by an appointed caregiver/legal guardian



What is the process of accessing cash?



- Currently one enrollment site in Warsaw: Kamionkowska 9
- Planned expansion into Krakow and Rzeszow

What is the process of accessing cash?



- Do not need bank account to access cash

What Other Services Will be Provided?

Blue Dot Service Center

- General information and counselling on services
- Identification of children at risk, including children separated from their parents and families
- Child friendly spaces (CFS)

Envisioned additional Blue Dot services

- Restoring and maintaining Family Links
- Dedicated Women's and Mother with Baby/toddler space
- Access to individual social, and emotional support
- Legal counselling



Scheduling an Appointment

- One enrolment point is currently open in **Warsaw**. More are opening in Warsaw, Krakow, and Rzeszow
- Appointments to enrol for cash assistance are made in advance through SMS, and through a newly launched [NGO Referral Form](#) and a piloting [Self-Referral Form](#)
- More information about how to self-schedule an appointment is coming soon: continue to visit help.unhcr.org/Poland for updated info



- NGO referral form: very simple form; eligibility criteria broad

- All updated info available on **help.unhcr.org/Poland** – tab dedicated to cash

Key Contacts

Enrolment Process:

- Alvaro Alabart, alabartc@unhcr.org

Cash Questions:

- Eleftherios Konstantopoulos, konstant@unhcr.org

Help.unhcr.org/Poland

- For updated info, incl. on scheduling appointments (English, Ukrainian, Polish)



Cash-based intervention in Child Protection

- Drafting a guidance document for Poland on cash for unaccompanied/ separated children
 - 2 pager on guidance on how to mainstream child protection in any CBI program
 - Guidance mainly around unaccompanied children:
 - Children can be included but only if linked to CM procedures
 - In line with GoP instructions, all unaccompanied and separated children require a legal guardian to be appointed by the Family Court
 - UASC should be receiving cash through the appointed caregiver



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| AOB | The next weekly CPSWG meeting will take place on Wednesday, 6 April, at 2PM. An agenda will be circulated. |
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| ACTION POINTS SUMMARY | | | | |
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| No. | Action | Responsible | Deadline | Status |
| 1. | For partners which have already undertaken child protection assessments - please kindly share with the group For partners which are planning to undertake child protection assessments – please keep CP SWG leads and members in the loop | All partners | ongoing | ongoing |
| 2. | Share procedures for non-Ukrainian UASC with CPSWG members | FD DS | 6 April | Pending |
| 3. | Working Group Co-leads to circulate short document with recommendations on cash and UASC | UNHCR/UNICEF | 4 April | Pending |