

MOLDOVA: GENDER TASK FORCE MEETING

Meeting Details	
Date	27 October 2023
Time	11:00 – 12:30
Venue	Zoom
Chair/ co-chair	Evghenia Hiora (UN Women), Nina Lozinschi (Platform for Gender Equality)
Agenda	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11.00 - 11.05: Welcome and agenda, announcement on the change of chair • 11.05 – 11.45: Report on consultations with women organizations and refugee women for RRP24, Q&A • 11.45 – 12.15: Updates from members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OHCHR/ Protection Working Group on Data Disaggregation (10 min) • Institute for War and Peace Reporting on Gendered Disinformation (10 min) • GTF on RRP submissions and upcoming RCF trainings on fundraising; Gender Accountability Framework (5 min) • UN Women on upcoming GiHA trainings and gender analysis of MSNA data (5 min) • 12.15 – 12.30: AOB 	

Participants			
#	Name	Organization	Function
1	Nina Lozinschi	Platform for Gender Equality	Secretary
2	Andriana Zaslavet	Platform for Gender Equality/RCTV Memoria	President
3	Evghenia Hiora	UN Women	Gender in Humanitarian Action Coordination Officer
4	Daniela Dutca	UN Women	Project Officer
5	Lovisa Salomonsson	UN Women	Communications & WPS Junior Officer

6	Nataliia Borshchevska	UN Women	Local Coordinator Ungheni
7	Oksana Khyngkul	UN Women	Local Coordinator Cahul
8	Mariana Aricova	Institute for War and Peace Reporting	
9	Monica Ellena	Institute for War and Peace Reporting	
10	Stelea Natalia	UNHCR	
11	Stelania Rudco	Community center 151	
12	Ines Arnautovic	Danish Refugee Council	
13	Valeria Danilov	Danish Refugee Council	
14	Petru Lupu	UNHCR	
15	Nathalia Ghies		
16	Ludmila Lachim	Motivatie	President
17	Andrei Esanu	UNPRPD	
18	Casey O'neill	CWS	Protection Program Manager
19	Martina Gastaldello	OHCHR	
20	Martina Bogdeva	UNHCR	
21	Valentina Bodrug-Lungu	Gender-Centru	President
22	Ally Bronson		
23	Giulia di Porcia	WHO	GBV and PSEA Specialist
24	Jo Darouciche	VOICE	
25	Simona Gaidei		
26	Marina Turcanu		

Summary of discussions and agreements/ action items

Agenda/Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p>Welcome and agenda, announcement on the change of chair</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nina Lozinschi (Platform for Gender Equality) welcomed participants and introduced the agenda of the meeting. Nina announced that Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) will take over the co-chair from Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women). 	

Report on consultations with women organizations and refugee women for RRP24, Q&A

- **Andriana Zaslavet** (Platform for Gender Equality/RCTV Memoria) presented the consultations with women-led civil society organizations (CSOs) and the refugee women for Refugee Response Plan 2024 in Chisinau, Cahul and Balti. Consultation attempted to focus on people from vulnerable groups. The main issues identified related to vulnerability are:
 - **Persons with disabilities:** limited accessibility at border crossing points, especially availability of accessible toilets; challenges related to accessible infrastructure, transportation and access to essential services; limited capacity of refugee accommodation centers, especially in regions and rural areas; and lack of specialized healthcare services and treatments, especially in rural areas. Suggested solution: prioritize infrastructure initiatives that improve accessibility and ensure that accommodation is available and accessible.
 - **Older persons and persons with chronic illness:** limited access in healthcare, including diagnostic investigation, treatment, and medication; limited access to information and difficulties with accessing information online; gender stereotype reframing them from seeking and accepting assistance; age-based employment discrimination; lack of adequate care infrastructure and social spaces. Suggested solution: promote the creation of active group for older persons to promote social cohesion; engage older people in peer-to-peer support in accessing information and technology.
 - **Single-woman headed households:** traditional gender stereotypes that limits access to resources, employment and an active social life; risk of gender-based violence (GBV); limited capacity of refugee accommodation centers; private housing discrimination; limited health services including sexual and reproductive healthcare. Suggested solutions: Customized programs for single-woman headed households with increased vulnerability with integrated protection measures; ensure availability of health care services to most vulnerable; invest in expansion of care and nursing infrastructure; promote economic capacities by creating employment opportunities adapted to skills and needs; promote flexible work arrangements.
 - **Roma:** difficulties in accessing services; difficulties in accessing referral mechanisms, especially in rural areas; prejudice and stereotypes towards Roma people that limit opportunities to participate in education and employment. Suggested solution: programs focused on strengthening partnerships between CSOs providing services for Roma people.
 - **LGBTQIA+:** discrimination, stigma, and lack of understanding due to pre-existing societal biases. This leads to increased challenges in finding safe accommodation, health services and safe spaces. Suggested solution: consolidating cooperation and partnerships with local organizations focused on LGBTQIA+; increasing awareness of safe accommodation; ensure inclusion and meaningful participation of LGBTQIA+ in consultations; support access to hormone therapy.
- The report presented a number of conclusions and recommendations:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to protection: Continued funding for mobile teams is crucial. Infrastructure should be improved to improve accessibility for persons with disability, especially in rural areas and at border crossing points. Safe and reliable transport, especially for children, must be a priority. Investment in GBV prevention and response programs are essential and should include comprehensive support services, awareness campaigns and advocacy efforts. Robust data protection policies should be developed and implemented to protect personal information. • Needs of most vulnerable: Important to prioritize and implement specialized solutions that address multi-layered vulnerabilities, ensuring stronger protection for the most vulnerable groups. These solutions could include, but are not limited to, providing adequate accommodation, developing the health sector and services, expanding mobile teams, safe spaces for LGBTQIA+ and personalized interventions for Roma. • Social-economic resilience: May be improved by operationalizing "patenta" for self-employment, promoting online work, offering specialized training in digital skills, and enhancing care infrastructure. Language barriers could be mitigated through extended and flexible Romanian language courses, including English for broader employment opportunities. • Local community: Allocating funding for programs that equally involve both refugees and local community members, inclusive workplace initiatives, dedicated community spaces and tailored mental health programs could further facilitate refugee integration and community dialogue. Joint refugee response effort must be supported by the continued engagement of local women's organizations and refugee women. Together, through continued collaboration and shared perspectives, the ability to address the unique challenges faced by the most vulnerable can be strengthened. 	
<p>Updates from members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Martina Gastaldello (OHCHR) on behalf of the Protection Working Group presented a factsheet for advocacy on disaggregation of data. Martina also shared information on a session on data segregation taking place the following Tuesday. It is important to disaggregate by all relevant variables, such as sex, age, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, and disability. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) thanked Martina and added that it is not only important to collect disaggregated data but to use it. Data collection requires a lot of effort and has obstacles, but it is very important to advocate to the donors that disaggregation of data needs to be backed up with the necessary funds. • Nina Lozinschi (Platform for Gender Equality) agreed and added that civil society organizations need to consolidate the capacity to have a shared database with disaggregated data in order to have consistency in activities and projects. • Mariana Aricova (Institute for War and Peace Reporting) introduced the Disinformation Handbook as factchecking tool. Gender disinformation is included as a chapter in the handbook and is very important 	

to understand.

- **Monica Ellena** (Institute for War and Peace Reporting) shared that research indicates a significant circulation in misinformation in Moldova about Ukrainian refugees. While the content represents a minority, it is a vocal minority with a tremendous impact that affects the relationships between refugees and host communities.
- Gender disinformation consists of gendered stereotypes together with disinformation meant to cause harm. It is false information or manipulation of real information to mislead, confuse, discredit, and diminish. It weaponizes gender stereotypes and uses misogynistic narratives. It largely targets specific individuals, such as high-profile women to discredit, intimidate and/or silence them. By large it targets their rights and issues such as domestic violence and women's rights. It can also intersect with other forms of identify-based disinformation (sexual orientation, disability, race, religion).
- It is intended to deceive and mislead audiences, either for the purpose of causing harm, or for political, person or financial gain. The internet/social media are fertile soil: algorithms incentivize and amplify inflammatory content and deeply rooted gender stereotypes to keep women politicians and critical journalists at bay.
- It happens all the time, but often peaks during election campaigns, key legislative decision, crisis, and discussions around polarizing issues. It takes various forms and can be very creative. Posting fake sexualized information, imaged/videos that violate what is considered socially acceptable behavior for men and women. Also posting doctored images, videos, memes to discredit and ridicule. Disseminating false claims to protect traditional "family values". Using automation (e.g., on social media) to further amplify their attacks, and by avoiding providing context.
- Disinformation can discourage women from becoming more politically active and being vocal about their opinions, effectively undermine democracy and participation, polarize public debate, undermine social cohesion and spread fear.
- **Nina Lozinschi** (Platform for Gender Equality) said that women in politics often face sexist speech during election campaigns in Moldova. Incidents of harassments against women political candidates can be reported on gendermonitor.md. Data is needed to adapt Interventions and fight this phenomenon.
- **Evghenia Hiora** (UN Women) emphasized that gendered disinformation may seriously affect the meaningful participation of women in decision-making at all levels, including refugee women in the refugee response, and encouraged all members of the Gender Task Force to share the handbook and be sensitive to gendered disinformation.
- **Evghenia Hiora** (UN Women) shared updates from the Gender Task Force and UN Women.
 - Sector leads under the Refugee Coordination Forum are reviewing projects submitted for Refugee Response Plan 2024 and will see if there is anything overlapping or gaps. The review stage ends

<p>on November 15. The coordination forum plans to conduct trainings on fundraising for the local organizations that have submitted project proposals. More information will be shared once available.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Women under the umbrella of the Gender Task Force organizes trainings on Gender in Humanitarian Action in November 2023. • UN Women plans to attempt gender analysis of the Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment data set. If the data allows, there is a plan to publish a 3–5-page document focusing on gender aspects of the assessment. • UN Women was recently contacted by Action Against Hunger that has a project to support mothers with young children. The number of the program coordinator is shared in chat, and if there are mothers with young children in need of help, they can reach out to the coordinator. 	
<p>AOB and Closing Remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nina Lozinschi (Platform for Gender Equality) opened the discussion on 16-days campaign. • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) shared that the national campaign is being coordinated by UN Women and currently being planned. There is also a campaign focused on the refugee response that is being coordinated by the GBV sub working group. If the members of the Task Force have any activities within the campaign, it should be shared with the GBV sub-working group for coordination to limit overlap in activities. • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) proposed for the next meeting to be in the first or second week of December. • Nina Lozinschi (Platform for Gender Equality) thanked the participants and closed the meeting. 	
<p>Material shared.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report on Consultation with Women Organizations and Refugee Women • Disinformation handbook English and Romanian • PPT on Consultation with Women Organizations and Refugee Women in Ro and Eng • PPT on Gendered Disinformation 	