Regional Refugee Response Plan
For the Ukraine Situation

GBV sub-WG meeting - Romania
08.10.2025, 10.00 – 11.30 (online)

Participants: UNHCR, ANES, Dr. Max Foundation, Plan International

Key Discussion Points:

Updates on discontinuation of projects and ongoing funding constraints in the GBV sector in Romania

- Plan International had an extention of the partnership with ANAIS for 2 months, which came to an end. No external funding avaliable currently.
- Dr.Max Foundation's activities will continue in Bucharest and Suceava, together with continuation of Safe You App, in collaboration with the Embassy of Armenia and UNFPA. Their centre in Bucharest will focus on providing individual counselling, including for Ukrainian refugees, noting a Russian interpreter will still be available.
- ANES awaits a decision on the final framework or structure under which they will be placed, following announcements of the merge with ANITP. Currently, operational programmes are on stand-by due to budget contraints.
- UNHCR is expecting the results of the submittion of Daphne CERV application in November. The partnership between UNHCR and Dr. Max Foundation was discontinued on 30 September.

UNHCR: UNHCR presented the findings of the Participatory Assessment exercise, with a focus on the concerns and needs shared by Ukrainian refugee women and girls around GBV and MHPSS-related matters. Among the concerns mentioned by the community were the language barrier, economic vulnerability and mental health pressure which are the key GBV risk factors. The recommendations suggested during the focus group discussions include progressive language courses, promotion of the dignified employment opportunities and delivering of mental health and psychosocial support services

ANES: Several activities were conducted over the past months, including an Empowerment through Self Defense (ESD) session for Ukrainian women in RomExpo community center, jointly with Daniela Draghici and UNHCR. Further efforts have been done regarding the translation (into Ukrainian and Arabic), and dissemination of the information about the national domestic violence helpline and 'You are not alone' campaign over the UNHCR Telegram channel. ANES shared information about an ongoing project with the support of the French embassy in Romania, whose aim relates to the exchange of good practices on combating sexual violence. The project is at the very initial stage and several NGOs are involved.

Dr. Max Foundation: 27th WAVE Conference Feminist Solidarity and Collective Action: Reclaiming our Power to End Violence Against Women agenda and main conclusions. Closing of the project with UNHCR on Prevention of GBV and integrated support for adults and children at risk - Pathways for GBV services provision after the discontinuation of the partnership, SafeYou App. Presentation is attached for reference.

UNHCR: In agreement with the WG, the GBV RRP chapter is validated in light of 2026's RRP validation exercise.

Follow-up points ANES and UNHCR:

- An information session for Ukrainian refugee women on the availability of the GBV related services offered by the state will be conducted in Romexpo community center based on the demand from the community
- To cater for the needs of refugees the forms necessary for accessing the social services will be translated into Ukrainian, English and Arabic