

Gender-Based Violence Sub-Working Group Moldova

Meeting Details					
Date	August 17 2023				
Time	2:00 - 3:30 p.m.				
Chair	Vanessa Bordin - GBV Officer, UNHCR Celine Brixander - Information and Reporting Analyst for Humanitarian Response, UNFPA				
Reporting	UNHCR				
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Agenda					
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Welcome and introductions. ➤ Presentation by the Ukraine GBV Area of Responsibility on GBV trends and GBV services available in Ukraine. ➤ Update on Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) consolidation process. ➤ Presentation of GBV Checklist for closure of RACs. ➤ Update on Winterization. ➤ Update by UNICEF. 				
Information collection and relevant links					
	GBV SWG Google Drive Moldova: Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Sub-Sector Working Group Data Portal GBV AoR Ukraine - Map of GBV Services: Entry Points for GBV Referrals				
Participants					
1.	Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR	9.	Sean Sager, UNHCR	18.	Dumitru Drumea, SPERANTA 87
2.	Celine Brixander, UNFPA	10.	Ines Arnautovic, DRC Moldova	19.	Azat Doskozhaev, ICRC
3.	Ekaterina Kristesashvili, GBV AoR Ukraine	11.	Marina Ileasevici, OSCE MtM	20.	Martin Kunze, JEW Chisinau
4.	Petru Lupu, UNHCR	12.	Valentina Bodrug-Lungu, Gender Centru	21.	Aliona Onofrei, HIAS Moldova
5.	Hanna Ursol, UNHCR	13.	Olga Chisca, OSCE	22.	Valentina Bordian, UNICEF
6.	Iva Bucatciuc, DRC Moldova	14.	Svetlana Albina, UN Women	23.	Teodora Zafiu, UNDP
7.	Dilnoza Niculescu, Caritas Moldova	15.	Benedetta Postiglione, IOM	24.	Dilnoza Niculescu, Caritas Moldova
		16.	Elena Castravet, IOM	25.	Ina Rusu, ADRA

8. Azat Disjizgaev, UCRC	17. Corina Tesu, REACH	26. Ilaria Guidoni, INTERSOS
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Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda Item	Discussion	Agreements/Actions
<p>Presentation by the Ukraine GBV Area of Responsibility (AoR) on GBV trends and GBV services available in Ukraine.</p>	<p>Ekaterina Kristesashvili, UNFPA Ukraine and GBV AoR Coordinator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Currently, the GBV AoR in Ukraine includes 218 member organizations. 83% of them carry out GBV activities in Ukraine. There are 28 coordination forums on national, sub-national and regional levels and with six sub-national hubs in Kyiv, Dnipro, Poltava, Odesa, Vinnytsia and Lviv. ○ Key priorities of the GBV Sub-Cluster include quality service delivery, updated information on services and referral pathways at national and regional levels, strengthening capacity of GBV (and non-GBV) actors including service providers and advocating with Government, humanitarian community and donors on GBV interventions. ○ The generic referral pathways in Ukraine cover all Ukraine except Crimea and Luhanska oblast. ○ The dashboard GBV AoR Ukraine - Map of GBV Services: Entry Points for GBV Referrals works as a referral pathway with information on services provided by 31 organizations and is updated monthly. Services can be found based on geographical location, and include GBV Case Management, Women and Girls' Safe Spaces and GBV PSS Mobile Teams, among others. ○ Current challenges in Vinnytsia, Chernivetska and Odesska (areas bordering Moldova) include the transit of affected populations and the GBV risks associated to it, security concerns, lack of specialized quality GBV services and actors, and lack of awareness about where to access information about GBV services. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The regions also have a presence of Roma communities, in which GBV issues are persistent. ○ Priorities for the remaining of 2023 include strengthening the capacity of specialized GBV service-providers, activities on prevention and awareness raising on GBV, coordination and advocacy. 	
<p>Updates on Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) consolidation strategy.</p>	<p>Sean Sager, UNHCR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The RAC consolidation process is ongoing, led by MLSP. An assessment was done by MLSP and 20 RACs were selected to close by the end of 2023. ○ The process was going fairly quickly, and SOPs were recently completed and will be shared with GBV SWG members once finalized. ○ The process is phased-approach and the RACs to be closed are separated in five groups, from A to E. RACs of A and B groups were informed by a multi-functional team about the closure process, which will last about two months. During the visits, RAC residents are provided with information about alternative accommodation options. Visits were conducted to three RACs of the group A and five RACs of the group B. ○ The visits were a joint work together with partners, such as a designated relocation case manager (protection partner who was present in the RAC or visiting RAC on a regular basis), rental assistance partners (CRS, IOM and ACTED) and an MHPSS focal point. The relocation case managers, being the focal points in the whole process, are responsible for making individual counselling, providing information, making protection referrals, including for GBV cases. Depending on the specific needs of each household, the existing referral pathways would be used. The Disability Task Force is also involved to support persons with disabilities to identify alternative accommodation solutions. Currently, there were two alternative accommodation solutions: eligibility for rental assistance programme for 6 months or relocation to another RAC. ○ There were some challenges faced during the visits, in particular with people who didn't want to move for different reasons. On 16 August, a training session was made for all the partners involved in the process to go through the SOP details. 	<p>UNHCR to share SOP on RAC consolidation process and list of RACs to be closed.</p>

	<p>Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A GBV checklist for closure of RACs was drafted and includes information on how to mitigate GBV risks and how to handle GBV disclosures. The tool was designed for organisations conducting the relocation case management, mostly, but can be useful for other organizations interested in GBV risk mitigation. ○ The tool has clear instructions on how to handle GBV disclosures, including for new cases and known cases which are already being managed by an organization. ○ It is essential that a GBV Case Manager takes over the case (with the consent of the survivor) so that all considerations, including safety etc. are in place and the survivor is relocated in a way that addresses their needs. ○ The tool included GBV considerations for the closure of RACs, information on GBV risks mitigation measures, immediate potential GBV risks and how to tackle them, particular groups at risk, how to safely handle a GBV disclosure and other useful information. <p>Sean Sager, UNHCR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A separate information session for relocation case managers would be organised and will include the GBV checklist and a training on PSEA. ○ At the next SWG session, a more detailed presentation on the RACs closure process and recent updates on RAC closure situation can be provided. 	<p>UNHCR to share a GBV risk mitigation checklist for closure of RACs.</p>
<p>Update on Winterization.</p>	<p>Celine Brixander, UNFPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A Winterization Task-Force was established to coordinate data collection and coordinate activities related to winterization planning. The winterization tentative planning shows that 55.000 refugees and 45.000 host-community members may be in need in winter related support. Cash is the preferred modality to support the winter related needs. A key point communicated by Winterization Task Force is that organizations that are looking to implement the winter cash interventions have to coordinate with Cash WG as well as with the specific sector. 	<p>The GBV SWG will follow up with a request for written inputs from the members of the GBV SWG for the winterization strategy by email.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ As for NFI distribution, they should be limited to vulnerable individuals when cash is not the preferred modality because of limited mobility or issues accessing the local markets. ○ A winter household survey is now ongoing with the purpose to identify critical house repair needs and includes questions related to housing condition and access to hot water, heating system and other aspects. ○ Activity Info will be open until the end August for all partners to submit their planned winter activities. This is an important exercise to ensure that activities conducted by different sectors and sector partners are coordinated and not duplicated. ○ UNFPA will distribute winterization dignity kits with the purpose to respond to winter needs and to work as an entry point for the referral of GBV survivors to services. 	
<p>Other updates.</p>	<p>Valentina Bordian, UNICEF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UNICEF and Feminist NGO are organizing a GBV peer-to-peer session within summer camps. 10 sessions have been already conducted and included awareness raising on GBV prevention and promotion of gender-positive behaviours among youth. UNICEF, with the Municipal Youth Centre, will organize trainings on Child Protection and GBV Core Concepts. ○ UNICEF had a meeting with Economic Council to discuss the roadmap on gender equality and economic empowerment of women with children. 	<p>UNICEF to present on People Safe Spaces at one of the next GBV SWG meetings.</p>