

Gender-Based Violence Sub-Working Group Moldova

Meeting Details		
Date	28 September 2023	
Time	2:00 - 3:30 p.m.	
Chair	Vanessa Bordin - GBV Officer, UNHCR Jana Nagnitschenko - GBV and Youth in Emergency Programme Coordinator/ co-chair GBV SWG	
Reporting	UNFPA	
Email	bordin@unhcr.org nagnitschenko@unfpa.org	
Agenda		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Welcome and introductions ➤ Update by Education WG ➤ Presentation by Speranta87 ➤ Presentation by UNICEF ➤ 2024 Refugee Response Plan (RRP) ➤ Update on RAC Consolidation Strategy ➤ Updates by members 	
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	8. Ines Arnautovic, DRC Moldova	14. Scarlet Hawkins, NRC
2. Jana Nagnitschenko, UNFPA	9. Svetlana Albina, UN Women	15. Fadia Jbara, UNHCR
3. Violeta Terguta, UNFPA	10. Elena Castravet, IOM	16. Alina Munteanu, MLSP
4. Petru Lupu, UNHCR	11. Dumitru Drumea, Speranta87	17. Camelia Corbu, IRC
5. Hanna Ursol, UNHCR	12. Fede Bagolin, WeWorld	18. Ilinca Leger, HEKS/EPER
6. Svetlana Olari, CDA	13. Lilian Severin, UNAIDS Moldova	19. Tatiana Budu, UNFPA
7. Giulia di Porcia, WHO		20. Flore Rossi, UNICEF

Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda Item	Discussion	Agreements/Actions
<p>Presentation by Speranta87</p>	<p>Dumitru Drumea, SPERANTA 87:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Since the beginning of the crisis, Speranta87 Moldova, was running different projects aiming at providing humanitarian aid to refugees. Total refugees reached: Approx 57,300: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 50 % women. - 40% children. - 10% men. ○ Main needs of refugees collected through feedback: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opportunities: employment (incl. a need for childcare, flexible work arrangements, trainings to learn new skills adapted to new environment, etc.) and Romanian and English language courses. - Psychological assistance, for both women and men, also covering PTSD. - Humanitarian support. ○ During service provision, psychological issues affecting refugees and which need to be addressed included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sense of guilt for not being in their country of origin. - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (especially men). - Despair. - Intra-family conflict. ○ In light of the risks of GBV considering the displacement factors and the psychological effects of the war on men, organizations need to work to empower women to support them in rebuilding and regaining control over their lives. This involves ensuring targeted programmes aiming at providing opportunities for self-development and comprehensive assistance and support to women and their families, including children and life partners. 	

<p>Update by Education WG</p>	<p>Fadia Jbara, Education Officer, UNHCR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On 1 September, the Ministry of Education issued a new instruction simplifying the procedure for students from Ukraine. ○ The new simplified procedures and needed documents include: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fill out and submit an application form which is found at the Ministry of Education’s website. This application is available in Romanian, Ukrainian and Russian. <p>The following documents are needed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The ID of the student. 2. The ID of the parent(s). 3. The medical record, which can be obtained in any medical institution in Moldova. 4. A document which states the student’s school grade. If the document is not available, a teacher can evaluate the student and place them in the appropriate grade. <p>If student wants to study online (Ukrainian curricula), they are encouraged to do this in a school setting. Many schools have opened tech-clubs where this can be done. This room has a connection to the internet and IT equipment. This will enable the children to socialize among their peers.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All partners should engage in sharing this information. The socialization of students is extremely important.
<p>Presentation by UNICEF</p>	<p>Flore Rossi, UNICEF:</p> <p>Current UNICEF priorities and activities:</p> <p>a. GBV response/ prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus on adolescents + intersection between violence against children, violence against women and domestic violence. - Work with a wide range of actors (women and girls associations, CP CSOs, Youth Clinic, MLSP and Chisinau Municipality). - Support to Maternal Center – Chisinau and Barnahus (Cahul/Tiraspol). - Child Helpline: information sharing and counseling. - Capacity strengthening and training on GBV case management including for child survivors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Findings from the GBV Safety Audit to be shared once the exercise is finalized.

- Engagement with adolescent boys / media / parents on prevention

b. GBV risk mitigation:

- Safety Audit conducted along with UNHCR and UNFPA.
- Multiple entry points to provide GBV awareness, mitigate risks and ensure the safe referral of children through youth clubs/centers, Blue Dots, child friendly spaces.
- GBV risk mitigation trainings for frontline workers and service providers.

UNICEF partnered with Feminism Md team, a young feminist organization that works to build a community of young people who support each other to push for gender equality. Information sessions were carried out for 523 adolescents (344 girls and 179 boys), including for participants of the Girls Go IT and Education thematic summer camps. During these trainings, adolescent girls received information on issues related to the social construction of gender, gender roles and gender stereotypes as well as on GBV risks and available specialized services. The next step includes holding additional 26 sessions among adolescent girls from rural areas (Northern region) to promote positive behavioral attitudes to prevent and address GBV in October-November 2023.

c. Strengthening the system for the prevention and protection of boys and girls from online sexual violence:

- UNICEF is partnering with La Strada NGO to address the inexistent system of response to **online sexual violence** against boys and girls.
- UNICEF is partnering with Association for Independent Press and BIT company **to combat online violence by applying behavioral science.**
- **Laaha, an application which can be downloaded and work as a virtual safe space for women and girls and aims to:**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Create a digital space that enables adolescent girls and women to seek support, ask questions, know where to go to seek help, and replicate the sense of a safe social network on the platform. ● Reduce isolation, building safe spheres of support for adolescent girls and women. 	
<p>2024 Refugee Response Plan (RRP)</p>	<p>Jana Nagnitschenko, UNFPA:</p> <p>2024 Refugee Response Plan - Planning Process for the GBV Sub-sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Refugee Response Plan (RRP) is an inter-agency planning, coordination and fundraising tool which contributes to operationalizing the Refugee Coordination Model. - It is designed to support host government responses to refugee situations through international solidarity. - The RRP includes the response delivered by UN Agencies and civil society and other relevant stakeholders in the country. - This goes from humanitarian assistance to medium-term responses focused on resilience and solutions. <p>2024 RRP objectives, which will delineate the activities for each sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refugees have effective access to legal status, protection, and rights in host countries. - Refugees with specific needs and vulnerabilities have access to targeted support and assistance. - Refugees' socio-economic inclusion in their host communities is strengthened and their self-reliance increased. - The social cohesion between refugee and host communities is reinforced. <p>2024 RRP Cross Cutting Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Government ownership at national and municipal level. - Maintaining emergency capacities due to volatile situation in Ukraine. - Participation by local and national CSOs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The GBV Sub-sector will keep all partners informed of Activity Info and further guidance on how to submit projects. - Partners to reflect on before the workshop: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response activities. ○ Any assessments that organizations are conducting will be helpful to determine gaps, needs and priorities. ○ Consider the different types of GBV affecting refugees and host community as well as how different groups are disproportionately affected by it. ○ What are the real gaps and how can we work in a coordinated manner to address them. ○ GBV risk mitigation in other sectors. ○ Indicators for GBV activities.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Age, Gender and Diversity considerations across the refugee response - Accountability to Affected People (AAP). - Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. <p>2024 RRP Planning Figures The RRP should focus to 90,000 refugees staying in Moldova and 55,000 host community.</p> <p>In the RRP budget should be included: Budgets of all organizations providing assistance (appealing partners) to refugees and affected host community in the country; Budget for inter-agency or agency activities on cross-cutting priorities should also be included; Governments’ financial requirements are not included in the RRP.</p> <p>Protection sector, including GBV and Child Protection, sector consultation workshop on 4 October: During this full day workshop, the Protection sector will establish sector priorities, including defining:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sector objectives. ● Sector activities. ● Sector indicators. ● Number of Persons in Need covered by the sector for 2024. <p>This process will facilitate the development of Sector Strategic Framework, which will subsequently guide partners in the submission of their respective projects.</p>	
<p>Update on RAC Consolidation Strategy</p>	<p>Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR: The RAC consolidation strategy is underway. The process led by MLSP with UNHCR’s support. RACs in groups A, B and C were already visited at least once. From the group A, two RACs were already closed, and some of the former residents are already participating in the rental assistance programme. Five RACs from group B have been closed and some former residents are engaging in livelihoods opportunities apart from the rental assistance programme. There is one RAC remaining to be closed in group C.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - More updates on this process will be provided in the next GBV SWG meeting.