

MOLDOVA: GENDER TASK FORCE MEETING

Meeting Details	
Date	07 July 2023
Time	11:00 – 12:30
Venue	Zoom
Chair/ co-chair	Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women), Nina Lozinschi (Platform for Gender Equality)
Agenda	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11.00 - 11.05: Welcome and agenda • 11.05 – 11.35 Update from PWG on TP, voices from the ground (Ungheni, Cahul, Balti, Soroca) on issues around TP • 11:35 -11:55: Presentation of the Regional Gender Brief: Livelihoods and access to work of refugees from Ukraine in neighboring host countries • 11.55 – 12.20: Presentation of gender-responsive project “Leaders Academy” for refugee women • 12.20 – 12.30: AOB 	

Participants			
#	Name	Organization	Function
1	Nina Lozinschi	Platform for Gender Equality	Secretary General
2	Evghenia Hiora	UN Women	Gender in Humanitarian Action Coordination Officer
3	Daniela David-Cimpoies	UN Women	Project Manager
4	Lovisa Salomonsson	UN Women	Communication and WPS Junior Officer
5	Aurore Souris	UN Women, Regional GTF	Humanitarian Affairs Specialist
6	Rebeca Acin	UN Women, Regional GTF	Humanitarian Affairs Specialist
7	Arianna Clarice Pearlstein	UN Women, Regional GTF	Humanitarian Action Intern
8	Nataliia Borshchevska	UN Volunteer	Local Coordinator Ungheni

9	Oksana Khyngul	UN Volunteer	Local Coordinator Cahul
10	Olga Dymova	UN Volunteer	Local Coordinator Balti
11	Raisa Tonkoglas	Ukrainians in Soroca	Administrator
12	Irene Quizon	WHO	PSEA Specialist
13	Dina Zamfirova	UNHCR	Protection Associate
14	Teodora Zafiu	UNDP	Livelihoods and Inclusion Sector Coordination Specialist
15	Iva Bucatciuc	DRC	Protection Officer
16	Alina Busila	WFP	Programme Associate
17	Graziella Piga	Project HOPE	Regional GESI Director
18	Svetlana Moisa	VOICE Moldova	GBV Coordinator
19	Ines Arnautovic	DRC	Protection Advisor
20	Corina Tesu	IMPACT/REACH	Liaison Officer
21	Milena Rusu		
22	Wassim Ben Romdhane	REACH	
23	Azam Baig	HelpAge	Regional Gender and Inclusion Advisor
24	Valentina Bodrug-Lungu	Gender Centru	President
25	Emma Matreniuc	People with Disabilities “Vivere”	
26	Iryna Rayevska		

Summary of discussions and agreements/ action items

Agenda/Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nina Lozinschi (Platform for Gender Equality) welcomed participants and introduced the agenda of the meeting. 	
<p>Update from Protection Working Group on Temporary Protection (TP), voices from the ground (Ungheni, Cahul, Balti, Soroca) on issues around TP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dina Zamfirova (UNHCR) informed that as of 3 July, over 5,000 persons have pre-registered online for TP and over 10,000 have started the process. 6,026 persons received TP identity documents, out of which 2,016 are children. Dina also shared that the Protection Working Group has conducted a survey on the 	

right and left bank of the Nistru river, 47.8% of respondents had applied for TP, while 52.2% of respondents had not.

- **Nina** asked if there is sex and age disaggregation for the data on TP.
- **Dina** informed that UNHCR asked the IGM to sex and age disaggregate the data and that it is expected to come.
- **Nina** mentioned that the GTF could do a written request to the IGM asking for sex and age disaggregated data, to support UNHCR request, if necessary.
- **Nataliia Borschevska** (UNV Local Coordinator Ungheni) shared that refugees in Ungheni are aware of the rules of legal stay and why TP is important. She said there are two categories of refugees, first the ones who either have applied or are eager to apply for TP. One of the main challenges for these refugees is, however, proof of residence for those who do not live in Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs). Many owners of the accommodations are hesitant to help in this process. The second category is refugees who are not willing to become legalized, mainly because they do not plan to stay in Moldova after the 90-days period is over, or because they plan on applying for citizenship. Many from the Roma community refuse to apply for TP and are aware of the repercussions but say they would rather just pay the fine than be included in a register.
- **Raisa Tonkoglas** (Ukrainians in Soroca) shared that the challenges and problems that refugees in Soroca face are similar to what Nataliia shared, but that the majority of refugees wish to have TP status. Many of them have issues such as refugees staying in the house of relatives who live abroad and cannot confirm the residence, people with disabilities having movement problems, or financial problems since it is expensive for the whole family to travel to Chisinau to register for TP. Some are not very well informed about available assistance. Most of the people who are already legalized in the region are people with relatives in Moldova, or with landlords in Moldova who agree to confirm their registration. For most of the people, the problem is providing proof of residence. Raisa also shared that in the group of refugees that she manages, there are 120 people, out of which 45-47 are children. Less than half of them have received TP.
- **Oksana Khynkul** (UNV Local Coordinator Cahul) shared that there are people who are not able to travel to the IGM office, and there are people who have applied to the mobile team and have been waiting a month. There is only one mobile team, and people are applying but the team isn't coming. There is a need for more mobile teams to come to the villages.
- **Nina Lozinschi** (Platform for Gender Equality) asked if Dina Zamfirova has any answer regarding the challenges mentioned, with the mobile groups and the proof of residence.
 - **Dina Zamfirova** (UNHCR) answered that there has been an effort to have more mobile teams, but it's different depending on region. More efforts are needed, and efforts are being made for mobile teams working in the Transnistrian region. An issue mentioned to IGM by the Protection Working Group is that despite requests coming in, the mobile team isn't going to certain regions because the

Follow up on the data for TP and, if necessary, write an additional request to the IGM for sex and age disaggregated data on temporary protection

requests are too few. Dina also agreed that there are many challenges regarding the proof of residence but that this is a mandatory document.

- **Nina** asked about the issue of owners not willing to submit these documents, and that it is necessary to focus on the host community.
- **Dina** said that an information campaign will be launched that will also target the host communities and how to solve the issue of owners not in the country, or un-registered houses.
- **Iva Bucatciuc** (DRC Moldova) asked if it is true that people who are living in rural areas and unable to get proof of residence by the owner has the right to go to the local public authority (LPA) and get the confirmation from them directly.
- **Dina** answered that the only person who can request the documents from LPA is the owner.
- **Nina Lozinschi** (Platform for Gender Equality) summarized the gender aspects of the difficulties of applying for TP as financial difficulties for women with children to register to TP, proof of residence, and limited access to rented houses/apartments for women with many children who decide to change accommodation to obtain a proof of residence.

Presentation of the Regional Gender Brief: Livelihoods and access to work of refugees from Ukraine in neighboring host countries

- **Rebeca Acin** (Regional Gender Task Force) presented the regional gender brief, which objective is to analyse the gendered nature of access to employment and livelihoods for refugees from Ukraine, offer existing good practices and provide recommendations on how to address gendered dimensions, all in the neighboring countries to Ukraine.
- **Arianna Pearlstein** (Regional Gender Task Force) presented the key findings of the brief:
 - Professional qualification requirements are a key barrier to accessing employment for women, and despite courses offered by various actors, knowledge of the host country language and English hinder women from accessing livelihoods.
 - Childcare and other care obligations keep women from accessing livelihoods, especially since many women for the first time have to balance the role of provider and head of care for the family.
 - The length of stay is also key obstacle to employment.
 - Lack of access to information, financial resources and government policies can put women refugees at unique risk of exploitation and GBV, as well a lot of misinformation.
 - Roma communities face additional barriers, for example in accessing services and information relevant for them.
 - Cash based assistance is crucial to aiding refugees but not widely available enough to meet the needs of the refugees.
- **Arianna** presented the recommendations:
 - To ensure that legal frameworks are conducive to part-time work, integrate mental health in psychological support services for livelihood interventions, and ensure access to job opportunities,

language support and explanation of labour market processes through digital apps, transit centres and shelters.

- Language courses should be offered remotely to increase accessibility for those who may have care obligations and provide unconditional cash assistance for the most vulnerable women refugees from Ukraine.
- Financial inclusion of women refugees should also be facilitated by making personal banking information accessible for refugees across borders.
- Regular access to care facilities for children, older people, people with disabilities and those with long-term illnesses should be ensured, and particular attention should be paid to the facilities needed for children who are following the Ukrainian schooling online so their primary care takers can pursue work.
- Collaboration that enables the further delivery of decent care services should be promoted which can enhance the public and private sector provision of social care services. Also, care solutions not only linked to attending activities offered for refugees from Ukraine, but that are regularly available and gender responsive, should be promoted. When possible, these initiatives should be led by refugees from Ukraine themselves.
- **Rebeca** presented the recommendations for GBV and protection:
 - Actors engaged in livelihood programming should establish appropriate safeguarding and protection measures, including regular monitoring of high-risk sectors for labor exploitation and scale up measures to prevent and response to trafficking.
 - A gender analysis should be included in projects that focus on issues such as care obligation and gender-based violence, and GBV risk mitigation should be integrated into program design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.
 - Frontline livelihood service providers should be trained in GBV prevention and existing safe referral pathways, and contracts in languages that refugees from Ukraine can understand should be provided.
- **Rebeca** also presented the recommendations for working with minority communities:
 - To offer targeted assistance to Roma communities to enhance their abilities to pursue employment and to mitigate risks associated with early school dropout such as marriage and pregnancy.
 - To engage in consultations with Roma community members, particularly women and adolescent girls, to further research and understand their needs and how these can be incorporated into humanitarian programming.
 - For digital access, the support of women in improving their digital skills should be continued, and digital opportunities for entrepreneurship and remote work, particularly for women refugees on the move should be promoted.
 - Actors involved in data collection are recommended to ensure regular disaggregation of data by sex, gender, age, disability, ethnicity, and geographical areas. Specific attention should be paid to

<p>collecting reliable information on the gender of the head of the household, and further efforts must be dedicated to understanding the situation of male refugees from Ukraine, for example the situation of men who are not registered and their access to work and services. Further research on the impacts of the social shift to single parent/female headed households where women care for family while also generating income should be conducted.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nina Lozinschi (Platform for Gender Equality) thanked the presenters and added that accessibility and strengthening digital skills need to come hand in hand, as it is necessary to not only have the skills but also have the necessary devices. It is thereby necessary to provide the financial assistance to buy the devices. 	
<p>Presentation of gender-responsive project “Leaders Academy” for refugee women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nina Lozinschi (Platform for Gender Equality) presented the project Feminist and Localized Humanitarian Action, implemented by Gender Centru, specifically the Women’s Leaders Academy for Peace: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The academy consists of 30 women, from both Moldova and Ukraine, and aims to strengthen the knowledge on Gender Equality, Resolution 1325, leadership, and to establish a network between the women. ▪ The academy has two main objectives: analyze gender inequality on the local level and provide solutions to reduce these inequalities. ▪ 10 graduates of the academy have received small grants to implement their own peacebuilding activities in their localities. ▪ The 10 projects reached 1,299 women and 234 men. Nina said that the grants made them think outside of the box. When women go into the community and confirm that there are inequalities within that community, they need to find a partner NGO that will help them implement the project. Thereby they also develop their negotiation skills. • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) thanked Nina for her presentation and emphasized how the project is a good example of a project that empowers women to become agents of change. The project and grants are good examples of showing the true potential of women, both local and refugee, as well as the importance of collaboration, social cohesion, working together with LPAs and having gender sensitivity. 	
<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) thanked the participants and provided information on a training taking place on July 12 and 13, covering the basic concept of gender equality, how gender equality translates into the humanitarian context, and how to mainstream gender equality into programmes. The training will be repeated in September for those who are unable to attend. Evghenia also shared information on an upcoming online training on SADDD, July 20 on data collection, registration is still open (registration link). Evghenia suggested for the next meeting to be in the second half of August. 	<p>Next GTF meeting to be held in second half of August.</p>

Material shared

- [Survey on Temporary Protection: Intention and Experiences](#)
- [Gender brief: Livelihoods and access to work of refugees from Ukraine in neighbouring host countries](#)