

Gender-Based Violence Sub-Working Group Moldova

Meeting Details		
Date	5 July 2024	
Time	2:00 - 3:30 pm	
Co-chairs and contact emails	Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR - bordin@unhcr.org Jana Nagnitschenko, UNFPA - nagnitschenko@unfpa.org	
Reporting	UNFPA	
Agenda		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction of members 2. Update on Consolidation process of Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) 3. Presentation by Union for Equity and Health on activities in Balti 4. Latest updates on Cash Assistance 5. Contingency Plan 6. Update on Inter-Agency Q2 reporting 7. Update on GBV Referral Pathways' new sections 8. GBV Risk Mitigation: results and follow ups from presentations at Working Groups and Task Forces 9. Updates from partners 		
Information collection and relevant links		
<p><u>GBV SWG Google Drive</u> <u>Moldova: Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Sub-Sector Working Group Data Portal</u> <u>UNHCR GBV Safe Disclosure Package</u></p>		
Participants		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR 2. Jana Nagnitschenko, UNFPA 3. Petru Lupu, UNHCR 4. Nata Plugaru, UNFPA 5. Aliona Onofrei, HIAS 6. Casey O'Neil, CWS 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Fede Bagolin, We World 12. Hannah McMillen, OSCE 13. Ilinka Leger, HEKS/EPER 14. Ina Rusu, ADRA 15. Iulia Gheorghies, UN Women 16. Lilia Gantatuc, General Inspector for Migration 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 19. Nadine Frisk, IMPACT 20. Nicoleta Luca, RCTV Memoria 21. Olesea Cazacu, UNDP 22. Olga Morozan, Pestalozzii Children's Foundation 23. Oxana Buzovici, Union for Equity and Health 24. Sanda Plugari, Early Starters 25. Scarlett Hawkins, NRC

7. Catarev Cristina, General Inspector for Migration	17. Rodica Moraru Chilimar, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection	26. Svetlana Olari, Law Centre for Advocates
8. Diana Miron, UNICEF	18. Marina Belevac, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection	27. Natalia Savcina, Women's Initiatives
9. Elena Castravet, IOM		
10. Elena Usturoi, CWS		

Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda Item	Discussion	Agreements/Actions
<p>Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR</p> <p>Updates on Refugees Accommodation Centers (RACs) consolidation process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are currently 35 operational RACs accommodating 1.825 refugees. • By mid-October 2024, after RACs from Group F and G close, approximately 24 RACs will remain open. The RAC consolidation process is led by the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection (MLSP) with the support of the Protection and Basic Needs sectors. • The SOPs (developed by MLSP) are under revision to modify and update some sections. This is being done with the support of the Relocation Technical Group (RTG) and the Protection Advisory Group (PAG). • In 2023, a GBV Risk Mitigation tool was used to reduce risks of GBV during the process and ensure the safe referral of GBV cases. • Assessment of RACs: In process to review the main categories on Protection and Basic Needs to provide a list of recommended RACs to close after Group F, and to analyse which RAC could remain long-term. • As part of this process, a Vulnerability Form will be filled by social assistants to assess vulnerabilities of households. RTG and PAG are providing comments. • Questions that could identify GBV risks and potentially at-risk cases are being included. 	
<p>Oxana Buzovici</p> <p>Presentation by Union for Equity and Health on GBV activities in Balti</p>	<p>The Union for Equity and Health is a public association with accreditation. The head office is in Balti and provides services in the North of the country, mainly in Falesti, Ungheni and Edinet.</p> <p>The services provided by the Union include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical assistance and procurement of medicines. 	<p>Follow up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-chairs to share presentation of Union with the members.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HIV testing, as well hepatitis B and C and TB screening. ● Psychosocial support and sessions with psychologists. ● Information sessions with local authorities and the police on how to support and refer persons to services. ● Legal aid. ● Advocacy activities, including promotion of human rights, involvement in changing the legislation in the field of gender equality and sex workers, among other topics. ● Training programs available at the platform https://formare.md/ for vulnerable communities, for partners and specialists. ● Emergency room for women GBV survivors and who also use drugs or are sex workers at risk. The room has the capacity to accommodate one woman and two children. ● These services encompass refugees from Ukraine. <p>Persons provided with the above services in 2023:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 4,000 people who use drugs. ● Approximately 1,200 sex workers. ● 197 people living with HIV, including persons diagnosed with tuberculosis (TB). ● Over 2,000 refugees from Ukraine received available services since February 2022. ● Persons from the Roma community also can access services through Union. 	
<p>Jana Nagnitschenko, UNFPA</p> <p>GBV Risk Mitigation</p>	<p>GBV Risk Mitigation Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A GBV risk Mitigation training was conducted by the GBV Sub-Working Group. ● A second training is scheduled for autumn to further enhance GBV risk mitigation capacities among partners. 	<p>Follow up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ensure follow up with each WG, SWG and TF for the implementation of GBV risk mitigation measures. ● Draft and circulate GBV Risk Mitigation tipsheets agreed with sectors.



GBV Safety Walk Workshop:

- The safety walk exercise is part of UNHCR's GBV Safety Audit toolkit and can potentially be lifesaving as it helps identifying risks of GBV related to concealed and dark areas, for instance.
- The GBV SWG aim is to ensure that sectors conduct these safety walks to assess and mitigate GBV risks in their areas.

The findings and sector-specific recommendations of the GBV safety Audit were presented across most Working Groups, Sub-Working Groups and Task-Forces. Some results include:

Protection Working Group:

Access to Documentation:

- A key GBV risk mitigation measure is ensuring refugee women have access to necessary documentation, like passports and birth certificates, which can enable them to access services and reduce GBV risks, including trafficking.

Inclusion in National Plans:

- The possibility of integrating GBV risk mitigation into the National Development Plan was highlighted as an important area for advocacy and collaboration with the government.

Roma Task-Force:

- Collaboration with the Roma TF was noted, focused on making information accessible to the Roma community, including engaging Roma mediators to disseminate service-related information.
- Joint efforts are underway with the Child Protection SWG to address GBV risks among adolescents from the Roma community and inform them about sexual and reproductive health.



	<p><u>Gender Task-Force:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Emphasis on Women-Led Organisations (WLOs) is essential in guiding programmatic efforts across sectors. Consultation at the local level with WLOs, refugee and host community women and in ensuring effective and contextually relevant GBV interventions. <p><u>Age and Disability Task-Force:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● GBV SWG with Age and Disability TF will collaborate on the accessibility of GBV-related information for people with disabilities.	
<p>Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR</p> <p>Latest updates on Cash Assistance</p>	<p>Cash assistance is an essential service to mitigate GBV risks and is an entry point for safely identifying risks and monitoring cases at risk without creating further risks for people.</p> <p>Current numbers related to cash assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Beneficiary caseload: 36,50 individuals/ 17,457 households● Average family size 2.1● 15% older persons● 13% single parents● 12% person with serious medical conditions● 6% person with disabilities <p>Score Card for cash assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The vulnerability threshold is 65.7%.● Among the vulnerable ones, there will be a prioritisation. The prioritisation threshold is 62.5% of inclusion, this results in the inclusion of 7,500 households, around 16,000 individuals. <p>Prioritised households' profiles: HH members with specific needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 61% older people	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 78% serious medical condition ● 73% disabilities ● 55% chronic disease ● 61% single parent 	
<p>Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR</p> <p>Contingency Plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Contingency Plan is a document that is developed and reviewed to ensure the operational capacity to respond to a potential refugee influx to Moldova. <p>Planning Scenario:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The planning scenario includes 500,000 people who will cross the border from Ukraine to Moldova, with 350,000 transiting through and continuing their journeys to other countries, and 150,000 remaining in Moldova. ● The plan encompasses responses for the short term (within 48 hours), midterm (first 10 days), and long-term 1-2 months responses. <p>Consultative Process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The contingency plan will be updated through a consultative process with partners. The final version to be reviewed by the Government and the Inter-Sectoral Coordination Group (ISCG). <p>GBV Sub-Sector Contingency Plan include elements such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Service provision, case management, provision of dignity kits, and menstrual hygiene management items. ● Rollout of a training package on Psychological first aid (PFA) and GBV. ● Dissemination of information materials on GBV and PSEA to ensure persons are informed about where to seek support. ● Flash GBV safety audit to identify new risks that could potentially arise as a result of the new influx. ● Safe spaces will be maintained and established, as needed. ● Rollout of the one-day Girl Shine program for adolescent girls. 	<p>Follow up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The GBV co-leads will reach out to partners for their inputs and inclusion of services into the contingency plan of the GBV Sub-Sector. ● It is essential that partners collaborate to this process to ensure it is coordinated and that service provision is geographically covered.



Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR

Update on Inter-Agency Q2 reporting

- The GBV Sub-Sector is preparing the Q2 Inter-Agency report, which is due on 12 July. An email was sent to request inputs from partners.
- In April, the Q1 report was submitted covering activities during the first three months of 2024.
- The Q1 Inter-Agency Report is available at UNHCR's Operational Data Portal through this link: [Ukraine Situation - Moldova: Inter-Agency Operational Update \(Quarter 1 - 2024\)](#).

Purpose of the report:

- To document the achievements, challenges, and gaps of GBV Sub-Sector partners encompassing the first six months of 2024.
- To reflect the activities and contributions of partners.
- The report is widely circulated among partners and donors.

Data Collection:

- Data is gathered from Activity Info, where partners report quantitative indicators related to their projects.
- The report also includes narratives to highlight specific achievements, challenges, and success stories.

Kobo Form Submission:

- Partners are asked to provide their updates through a [Kobo Form](#).
- This form allows partners to share qualitative information, such as achievements, challenges, and engagement with the community and government.

Activity Info reporting:

- An email was shared with a request for partners to report on Activity Info until 12 July.

Follow up:

- Partners to provide updates through the Kobo form for the Q2 report.
- Ensure all activities and achievements are reported in Activity Info.
- Partners can reach out to the Information Management Working Group (mdachim@unhcr.org) for any reporting assistance.



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a need for accurate and comprehensive reporting in Activity Info. This data is crucial for the quarterly report and ensures that all activities are properly documented. • This email also includes the contact details of colleagues from the Information Management Working Group, in case support is needed when reporting on Activity Info. 	
<p>Petru Lupu, UNHCR</p> <p>Update on GBV Referral Pathways with new section</p>	<p>Overview of Referral Pathways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are six localised GBV Referral Pathways in place and which are updated monthly for the north, south, and central regions, as well as for Palanca and Otaci Border Crossing Points. • These pathways facilitate the referral of GBV survivors to essential services, such as shelters, psychological counselling, urgent medical services, and legal aid. <p>Components of Referral Pathways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each pathway includes contact information for case management, psychological support, medical assistance, and legal action. • Detailed tables provide contacts for primary healthcare, youth-friendly health centres, psychological support and mental health centres, protection and safety actors, law enforcement, and organisations working with specific groups with diverse backgrounds, including LGBTIQ+ people, sex workers and persons with disabilities. <p>Accessibility and Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining updated information in the referral pathways to ensure effective and timely support for GBV survivors is crucial. • All partners are encouraged to inform about any new services available or changes in existing services to keep the pathways accurate. 	<p>All partners are encouraged to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform Petru Lupu (lupu@unhcr.org) about any new or discontinued services to ensure referral pathways remain updated. • Maintain and promote a survivor-centred approach in all interactions with GBV survivors. • Share widely the updated referral pathways among organisations and partners and ensure they are accessible to all relevant stakeholders.

	<p>Service Providers collaboration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Continuous collaboration with service providers to ensure the pathways are comprehensive and reflect the current landscape of available services. ● Partners should share information about new services or changes in existing ones, especially those affecting refugees. 	
<p>Fede Bagolin, WeWorld</p> <p>Updates from partners</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WeWorld has been active in Moldova since March 2022 and has established community centers to support diverse population groups, including Moldovans, Ukrainian refugees, and the Roma community. ● Activities are focused on education and protection. <p>Community Centers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WeWorld operates community centres as nurturing hubs for all ages, offering recreational, educational, and psychosocial activities. ● Facilities include spaces for individual counselling, speech therapy, preschool activities, and educational sessions for older children and adolescents. ● The team includes a coordinator, three educators, a speech therapist, and two psychologists. <p>Holistic Approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The centres provide safe spaces for empowerment, support, and building friendships. ● Activities are designed to help individuals identify and support their aspirations. ● The environment fosters safety, comfort, and trust, ensuring a safe space for the disclosure and referral of GBV cases to specialised service providers. 	



	<p>Future Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● New safe spaces will open in the northern regions of Moldova (Edineț, Soroca, and Riscani) in September 2024.● These centres will focus on protection, awareness-raising, information materials, and will act as safe spaces for disclosures.● Mobile teams will travel to provide additional services to communities without access to the main centres. <p>GBV Prevention and Awareness:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Although WeWorld is not primarily a GBV actor, they are committed to GBV prevention through educational and awareness activities.● The organisation plans to intersect education with psychosocial support, focusing on emotional learning and life skills training.● Awareness campaigns will use strategies like menstrual hygiene management to open conversations on child protection and GBV prevention.	
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Next GBV SWG meeting	
Date & Time	Tentatively scheduled for August. Details to be confirmed via email.