

MOLDOVA: FIRST GENDER TASK FORCE MEETING

Meeting Details	
Date	25 March 2022 (Next meeting on 1 April 2022)
Time	10:00 – 11:30
Venue	Zoom
Chair	Ms. Constanze Quosh from UNCHR and Flora Macula from UN Women
Agenda	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and Introductions of participants • Presentation on Gender in Humanitarian and Gender Task Force (thereafter referred to as “GTF”) • Q&A • Actions to be taken by GFP • AoB 	

Participants			
#	Name	Organization	Function
1	Alexandra Djorjevic	UNHCR	Transportation and Accommodation WG
2	Colleen Roberts	UNHCR	Gender-Based Violence Officer
3	Constanze Quosh	UNHCR	Senior GBV Advisor
4	Olesea Perean	UNDP	Effective Governance Cluster Manager
5	Dominika Stojanoska	UN Women	Country Representative
6	Evghenia Hiora	UN Women	Administrative Associative
7	Flora Macula	UN Women	Humanitarian Response Expert
8	Nighina Azizov	UN Women	Programme Analyst
9	Olesea Simion	UN Women	Communications Officer
10	Olga Stoler	UN Women	Coordination Officer

11	Svetlana Andries	Un Women	Programme Specialist
12	Cristina Lesnic	UN Women	Lead Gender Expert
13	Jo-Anne Bishop	UN Women Regional Office	Coordination Specialist, UN WOMen ECAR RO
14	Marina Buruiana	Women Law Centre	Executive Director
15	Tatiana Chebac	Law Center of Advocates	Child Protection and GBV Focal Point
16	Erica Zucec	Women Democracy Network	
17	Michelle Girard	Voice Amplified	GBViE
18	Kelly Joseph	Voice Amplified	GBViE
19	Yana	Voice Amplified	GBViE
20	Svetlana Mirca	State Chancellery	Lead Consultant in Direction of Coordination for Human Rights and Social Dialogue
21	Cristina Raducan	Roma Women and Girls Network "Moldsolidaritate"	President
22	Madalina Fosa	Institutum Virtutes Civilis	Project Assistant
23	Elena Sirbu	Roma Women Platform "ROMNI"	Director
24	Cornelia Calin	Platform for Gender Equality, Institutum Virtutes Civilis	IVC Training coordinator and policy development
25	Helle Willumwen	Plan International	Consultant
26	Nicolas Casale	Plan International	
27	Emma Matreniuc	NGO of People with Disabilities "Vivere"	Director and founder of the NGO
28	Ina Gradinaru	NGO from Drochia	Programme Coordinator
29	Liliana Palihovici	Institutum Virtutes Civilis	President
30	Dina Ciubotaru	HelpAge International	Programmes Coordinator
31	Valentina Geamana	Helmut Wolf	President
32	Valentina Bodrug Lungu	Gender-Centru	President
33	Nina Lozinschi	Gender Equality Platform	General Secretary of the Platform
34	Lilia Pascal	Department of Policies for Ensuring Equality between Women and Men, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection	Head of Department
35	Petru Lupu	Department of Policies for Ensuring Equality between Women and Men, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection	Senior Consultant
36	Natalia Covrig	Center Partnership for Development	Public Policy Analyst
37	Carolina Furdui	CALM	Legal Expert

38	Natalia Stelea		
39	Natalia Sturza		
40	Tatiana Fesina		
41	Victoria Rosa	Foreign Policy Association in Moldova	Executive Director Foreign Policy, Security and Defense Expert specialized on the Eastern European region

Summary of discussions and agreements/ action items

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
Welcome and Introductions of participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flora Macula, Constanze Quosh and Colleen Roberts greeted everyone to the first GTF meeting co-chaired by UN Women and UNCHR. • Participant presented themselves. 	
Presentation on Gender in Humanitarian and Gender Task Force	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constanze Quosh (UNHCR) presented: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a quick snapshot of the situation in Moldova with regards to refugees. 2/3 of refugees are transiting, 1/3 is staying in Moldova. Most refugees are women and girls – 68%. A general trend is that younger population travels to Europe, while older population stays in Moldova with the hope to come back to Ukraine once the situation improves. Secondly, explained fundamental humanitarian principles – impartiality, neutrality, humanity and independence. • the refugee response coordination structure. The lead coordination actor is the Government of Moldova and also UNHCR. There are also inter-sectorial technical groups reporting to them. Solicited any planned assessments to be reported under respective working groups in the assessment registry. • and any communication materials that you have already produced or plan to produce to be shared with the GTF chairs – Dominika Stojanoska and Colleen Roberts. • Flora Macula (UN Women) pointed out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • that corner stone of refugee response is coordination and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants to provide comments for the ToR. • GTF to share GTF ToR, PP presentation, list of participants, contacts of sectors and recording of the meeting. • Participants to register assessments in the assessment registry. • Participants to share specific suggestions for the next week meeting.

	<p>explained connection between gender and refugee response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> presented Important aspects of gender-sensitive refugee response – 7 questions to have in mind, while providing refugee assistance and stressed that needs assessment is very important to understand actual needs and provide lifesaving response. It needs to be coordinated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flora Macula (UN Women) explained <ul style="list-style-type: none"> recommendations for refugee response. The crisis may provide opportunities for real gender transformation, change of power relations. GTF needs to make sure that women participate in refugee response decision-making at the community level and in refugee-response coordination mechanisms. the objective of the GTF and the key focus areas – coordination, technical support, guidance, capacity development and advocacy. the importance of assuring that gender perspective is integrated in the refugee response. Now there are circa 40 members, but the number is expected to increase. Membership is open to everyone – government, NGOs, gender advocates, women refugees, CSOs and media. GTF will report to the Refugee Coordination Forum Multi-Sector Working Group. Meetings will take place every Friday from 10:00 to 11:30 as of 25 March 2022. 	
<p>Q&A</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cristina Lesnic (Gender Expert) asked whether those 5,451 asylum seekers mentioned in the beginning of the presentation are asylum seekers requests. Answer: Yes, these are registered requests. She also asked whether all of them are of Ukrainian origin or there are nationals of other countries as well. Answer: No all are Ukrainian, in terms of which countries, we do not have data on this now, but we could get it if needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GTF to guide women’s organizations in which sector to participate, based on issues raised by them.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valentina Bodrug Lungu (Gender-Centru) drew attention to an important dimension to be taken into consideration in refugee response – in-kind and financial assistance to refugee hosting families with a focus on elderly women from rural areas. • Lilia Pascal (Ministry of Labor and Social Protection) thanked for the creation of the GTF as an important mechanism to assure gender-sensitive refugee response policy development. According to the available statistics 89% of refugees are women and children, therefore refugee response policies need to be gender-sensitive so that special needs of this group are taken into consideration. This task force is important as one may have noticed that the decisions taken by the Emergency Situation Committee haven't had a built-in gender perspective. <p>This task force will have a key role to mainstream gender equality perspective in the refugee response. It is of utmost importance to protect this group of population of crisis setting related risks – harassment, trafficking of human beings, gender-based violence, etc. Trainings for assistance providers, provision of refugees with information related to their rights and creation of efficient infrastructure for the services to be provided are very needed.</p> <p>As to the issue raised by Valentina Bodrug, support to the hosting families, there is already a mechanism in place. Mayors are currently responsible to support the needs of the hosting families from the humanitarian aid for distribution in Moldova among refugees and local population. Hosting families are also allowed to request humanitarian support (food, non-food items, clothing, footwear, etc.) directly from the Single Emergency Management Center.</p> <p>As to co-financing of hosting families, solutions are still to be found. Solutions for refugee cash support are already in place.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GTF to visit the center where Roma refugees are located • GTF to work together with health and accommodation sectors on identifying women in late pregnancy and mothers with infants
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Svetlana Mirca (State Chancellery) shared her experience of work with the Single Emergency Management Center. There is a hotline 080080011 that may be accessed by refugees and local population willing to provide support to refugees for any informational support. The nature of requests changes in time. In the beginning requests related to immediate assistance in terms of accommodation and meals. Now it is more about employment, registration, in-kind support, hygienic materials, etc. All the requests are registered and transferred to responsible parties to assure quick support. • Valentina Geamana (NGO “Helmut Wolf”) thanked for the invitation to this group. Her center can provide support to women survivors of violence. As they are self-financing, they have limited capacity. They have 23 places that are free and can be used for accommodation of refugees with the condition of the center being included in the list of refugee accredited centers. She is currently in Italy, fundraising for the necessary funds. Thanks to all international organisations that support women and help provide services to women of all ages, including with disabilities. A long-term response policy is needed as the problems created by this conflict will persist for many years. • Erica Zucec (Women Democracy Network) pointed that psychological support to refugee women and children, as well as education for refugee children shall be considered. • Colleen Robert (UNHCR) reminded that for any specific needs (accommodation, food, education, cash, etc.) there are also specific groups that may be contacted. Contacts of these groups will be provided. • Valentina Bodrug Lungu (Gender-Centru) thanked for mentioning the other working groups as she was not aware of them. It is great that there is this group now where information can be shared and received. As to the educational sector and 	
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	<p>psychological support, she spotlighted 3 vulnerable groups – refugee children, parents and teachers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Svetlana Mirca (State Chancellery) informed that the Ministry of Education has established a working group that meets on a weekly basis. Information on the activity of this group can be found on the website of the Ministry of Education. They have already issued recommendations on integration of refugee children into local educational system. There is also Health and Mitigation working group that deals with psychological support to refugees through an established support mechanism. They also collaborate with the Republican Center of Psycho-Pedagogical Assistance. • Elena Sirbu (Roma Women Platform "ROMNI") mentioned that her organization encountered many problems in provision of Roma refugees with assistance. As of now they have not benefited of any financial or humanitarian support besides the assistance from the Roma community from Spain. Roma women refugees are subject to double discrimination. They have now been transferred to a separate accommodation point that is not a boarding facility and does not have necessary infrastructure for women and children. They tried to lobby for the change of the venue but have not succeeded so far. They also have a group of Roma women and children who want to travel to Europe to re-join with their families but have no documents. • Liliana Palihovici ("Institutum Virtutes Civilis") mentioned that the Government created an online service through which refugees without documents can apply for an identification code and receive all necessary assistance. Based on this identification code refugees can obtain temporary asylum seekers or travel documents. • Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mentioned that this group already contributed to the purpose it was created, i.e. having a platform to connect, 	
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	<p>share information and point out specific problems pertaining to gender equality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> presented the preliminary results of the Rapid Gender Assessment carried out in partnership with IOM. In 10 day-time the quantitative and qualitative assessments will be finalized. Based on the results it will be possible to effectively plan and share interventions among all stakeholders. suggested that one of the important tasks of the GTF would be to ensure that all needs assessments to be carried out in different sectors have GE fully mainstreamed. For this purpose it is proposed that GTF is the group to review the methodology of the assessments, and provide recommendations on findings and observations. Multi-sectorial group, working and sub-working groups to be informed of this decision alongside with a kind request that information is sent to GTF on planned assessments through the registry that UNHCR is currently collecting information. suggested to discuss with the accommodation group that some criteria are developed that women in late pregnancy and women with babies (and close family) are accommodated in separate structure set on purpose for these target beneficiaries. 	
<p>Suggestions for the Next Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss practical issues deriving from the meetings of different sectors and support to people with special needs. Discuss and suggest criteria for temporary accommodation and services for pregnant women and women with infants. 	

The next meeting scheduled for 1 April 2022 from 10:00 -11:30 in [Zoom](#).