

MOLDOVA: GENDER TASK FORCE MEETING

Meeting Details	
Date	29 April 2022
Time	10:00 – 11:30
Venue	Zoom
Chair	Ms. Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women), Ms. Nina Lozinschi (Gender Equality Platform)
Agenda	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Info from IMWG Leona Weiher • Updates from Inter-Sector WG • Updates from members of GTF, issues to flag at sectoral WG • Update on MSNA • Update on Rapid Gender Assessment findings • Approval of the final work plan • AOB (reminder on GiHA checklists, self-paced gender trainings) 	

Participants			
#	Name	Organization	Function
1	Dominika Stojanoska	UN Women	Country Representative
2	Ceren Gures	UN Women Regional Office	Programme Specialist
3	Nighina Azizov	UN Women	Programme Analyst
4	Emilia Rusu	UN Women	Programme Officer
5	Viorica Culeac	UN Women	Programme Officer

6	Evghenia Hiora	UN Women	Project Officer
7	Cristina Lesnic	UN Women	Lead Gender Expert
8	Iuliana Bordeianu	UN Women	Field Consultant
9	Colleen Roberts	UNHCR	Gender-Based Violence Officer
10	Leona Weiher	UNHCR	Information Management
11	Olesea Perean	UNDP	
12	Natalia Stelea		
13	Svetlana Mirca	State Chancellery	Lead Consultant in Direction of Coordination for Human Rights and Social Dialogue
14	Mariana Ioga	National Agency for Social Protection	Head of Social Assistance and Rehabilitation Department
15	Valentina Bodrug Lungu	Gender-Centru	President
16	Nina Lozinschi	Gender Equality Platform	General Secretary of the Platform
17	Liliana Palihovici	Institutum Virtutes Civilis	
18	Mariana Buruiana	Women Law Centre	Director
19	Sharifa Abdulaziz	Voice Amplified	
20	Elodie Voisin	Red Cross France	Protection, Gender, inclusion Advisor
21	Veronica Teleuca	National Coalition "Life Without Violence"	Coordinator

Summary of discussions and agreements/ action items

Agenda/Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women) presented meeting agenda and invited new members to present themselves. • Ceren Gures (UN Women Regional Office), Elodie Voisin (Red Cross), Veronica Teleuca (National Coalition "Life Without Violence"), Sharifa Abdulaziz (Voice) presented themselves. • Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women) briefly explained the purpose and tasks of the GTF – coordination, gender mainstreaming across all sectors of humanitarian response and exchange of information. 	
Info from IMWG Leona Weiher	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Leona Weiher (UNHCR): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presented the Operational Data Portal that pictures emergency situation and refugee response in Moldova and is open to public. ● Invited to share information, upload key documents that may be of interest to others to highlight the efforts and achievements of the GTF. On average the page gets 200-300 visits per day. ● Informed that GTF members can also get an account and upload information independently. An account request needs to be submitted to the IMWG. ● Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women) reminded of importance of reporting and asked GTF members to share information on their activities with evghenia.hiora@unwomen.org or mdachim@unhcr.org from the Information Management Group every Wednesday and Friday by COB. 	
<p>Updates from MSWG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women) informed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Issues flagged at the last GTF meeting were channeled to the Health WG. Should there be a reply, it will be channeled back to GTF. ● Refugee Response Plan has been published. It includes all neighboring countries to Ukraine. This plan will channel resource mobilisation efforts. ● An issue was raised in the Education and Child Protection WGs on specific activities for children and youth, child friendly spaces to address specific needs of girls and boys. There will be a specific meeting on this, GTF members are invited to join, link will be shared additionally. ● For one of the next GTF meetings colleagues from Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse will be invited to discuss how to use our platforms and networks to increase prevention and information sharing including on GBV. ● Colleen Roberts (UNHCR) informed of the recent discussions under GBV SWG: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● There are concerns about risks of physical violence and sexual exploitation for women staying in private accommodation. Efforts will be made to better engage and reach out to these categories of women. ● There are discussions around training, protocols, expectations towards the support - how the support to survivors is provided, what services are provided, what is organization's commitment to responding, how the survivors can access safety, support for persons in transit, linkages to colleagues in Romania and other countries. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Share the Refugee Response Plan ● Share MoM of the Multi-Sectoral Working Group ● Share link to the meeting on specific activities for children and youth ● Invite PSEA to discuss information sharing ● Ceren to share minimum protection standards for Syrian refugees

- GTF members are invited to participate in the meetings of GBV SWG.
- **Dominika Stojanoska** (UN Women) mentioned that GTF and other affiliated networks, CALM for example, can be used to share the messages.
- **Veronica Teleuca** (National Coalition Against Violence):
 - Confirmed the concerns on sexual exploitation, harassment and abuse. The risk is coming from both individuals and communities as not all of them are friendly.
 - Acknowledged need for protocols of work with individuals and communities. Cooperation with local authorities is not easy, but important. There are confirmed cases of hostilities against refugees in southern and northern regions of Moldova.
- **Cristina Lesnic** (UN Women) informed about the event of social cohesion and refugee integration in Boscana from Criuleni. Refugees hosted in families in most cases do not know each other and do not communicate. It is important to create socialization opportunities and to replicate this experience in other communities and within GTF.
- **Valentina Bodrug-Lungu** (Gender Center) suggested to support LPAs in early assessment of expectations of refugees, provision of clear messages on available services and referrals to other service providers for the services not covered by the LPA.
- **Dominika Stojanoska** (UN Women) invited GTF members to consider the following questions:
 - How GTF can support GBV SWG?
 - Does GTF want to develop an Early Signs Guideline for the community?
 - How does GTF see cooperation with LPAs? How to collect refugee expectations regularly to address their needs?
- **Nina Lozinschi** (Gender Equality Platform) mentioned that the focus of refugee support changed from basic needs to social cohesion and integration. She suggested to organize social cohesion events and provide space for dialogue. Local organisations could create space for cohesion and dialogue and GTF could cover areas, where no organisations are present.
- **Ceren Gures** (UN Women Regional Office) informed that:
 - Between 2016 and 2018 refugee response was established for Syrian refugees in Germany. Minimum protection standards were developed. The context is different, but they can be used as basis. They include standard operating procedures – who does what and when. Detailed documents are in German, minimum protection standards are in English. Documents will be shared with the GTF.
 - Communication and expectation management are important. Info sheets can be developed and distributed at arrival centers or refugee accommodation centers.

- Share the concept of the GiHA training by 6 May
- Share self-paced gender and gender in emergency trainings
- Share proposal for one day event
- Discuss with IMWG messages to be channeled with regard to refugee support and its effect on local population

- It is important to work with media – to develop and spread simple messages on refugees' entitlements and underline that government support to refugees does not affect the local population.
- **Cristina Lesnic** (UN Women):
 - Confirmed the need of LPA for orientation and non-paper guidance on how to work, communicate with and organize refugees.
 - Suggested to organize a one-day event to share experience of work with refugees and lessons learnt for GTF and its partners.
- **Mariana Buruiana** (Women Law Centre):
 - Mentioned that it was important to provide LPAs with information and contacts for organisations providing services to refugees.
 - Informed that Women Law Center will implement local social cohesion initiatives that will engage refugee women.
 - Informed that Women Law Center will soon launch a small grants programme. Interested organisations are invited to apply.
- **Nina Lozinschi** (Gender Equality Platform) supported the idea of a one day event for organisations providing refugee support and mentioned that one day may not be enough.
- **Dominika Stojanoska** (UN Women):
 - Proposed to map ongoing activities based on location, type of activity, etc. and plan next interventions.
 - Agreed to proposal to organize one day event on sharing experience and discussion of best approaches.
 - Informed of the ongoing work on the draft of the training on mainstreaming gender in humanitarian action and checklists. Concept to be shared by the next meeting on 6 May 2022.
 - Informed of self-paced UN Women publicly available trainings on [gender](#) and [gender equality in emergencies](#) that would be shared with the GTF.
 - Proposed GBV SWG to suggest how GTF can be of help with the development of protocols or in any other way support its work.
 - Proposed to discuss with IMWG messages to be channeled about refugee support and its effect on local population.
- **Valentina Bodru Lungu** (Gender Center) informed that Gender Center and a few organizations from the Gender Equality Platform focused their attention on the villages from the security

<p>zone. It is important to divide regions and activities so that no efforts are duplicated.</p>	
<p>Updates from members of GTF, issues to flag at sectoral WG and MSWG</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women) invited GTF members to inform of issues to be flagged at the upcoming sectoral WGs and MSWG. ● Colleen Roberts (UNHCR) informed that there is a concern around the fact that there are more men among security forces, service providers and volunteers than women. This gender imbalance may create significant discomfort for refugee women. Equal gender representation of frontline workers is necessary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Raise the issue of gender balance in security forces, service providers, volunteers and frontline humanitarian workers at the MSWG
<p>Update on MSNA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nina Lozinschi (Gender Equality Platform) briefly presented the review of the MSNA methodology. Review recommendations have been provided. More specific indicators tailored to the context of Moldova have been suggested. Inputs of the GTF members have been considered and incorporated into final recommendations. ● Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women) underlined the importance of GTF reviewing MSNA, as being the major and the key assessment to provide a comprehensive overview of refugee needs. She thanked all GTF members for this collective offer and suggested to ask for the final version of the document at the next MSWG and offer GTF gender expertise in data analysis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ask the final version of the MSNA from the MSWG and offer GTF gender expertise in data analysis
<p>Update on Rapid Gender Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women) presented the results of the Rapid Gender Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A large sample of total of 6536 refugees in transit locations and 133 refugees in private locations have been interviewed. ● Issue of concern - majority of refugees are women and most of them are traveling with children. This is particular vulnerability. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Share the presentation of the Rapid Gender Assessment

- 30% of refugees intend to stay in Moldova. Social cohesion and integration are needed at the community level.
- A new basic need evolved – increased need for season clothing and shoes, as well as medicines and health services.
- There is high risk of harassment and trafficking. It is important to secure income to women as this decreases the risk of vulnerability to exploitation and abuse. Challenge here is that there are no sufficient childcare services in Moldova. We need to further discuss how to address it, including in the Inclusion and Livelihood group.
- Security and safety concern were raised by 8% of women in centers and 6% in transit. As the assessment was not specifically tailored to protection, a separate assessment will be needed to capture more details of these concerns.
- It is important to share information, inform on where to go for specific services and how to look for support.
- Asked to provide concrete recommendations for addressing these specific vulnerabilities and supporting local community.
- **Eloise Voisin** (Red Cross France) pointed out that another key role of GTF may be to ensure the link between Moldova feminist network and gender interventions. It is important to fuel gender agenda to the work of sector groups.
- **Nina Lozinschi** (Gender Equality Platform) informed that the Gender Equality Platform connects the GTF with the members of the platform.
- **Veronica Teleuca** (National Coalition “Life Without Violence”) mentioned that the National Coalition has gender on its agenda as well. Feminism as practical issue is not well understood in Moldova. Crisis setting is not connected to gender equality, women, peace and security. There is a lot of nuances to tackle and the work must continue.
- **Dominika Stojanoska** (UN Women) suggested the GTF as a group to formulate advocacy messages for humanitarian actors and broader audiences to address the common perception of women as victims, but not actors of change. These messages to be presented to sectors and IMWG to be channeled to humanitarian actors.
- **Valentina Bordug-Lungu** (Gender-Centru):
 - Agreed with the suggestion for gender-sensitive and transformative messages to be fueled to other WG.
 - Suggested to provide session on gender in Education WG.
 - Suggested to brainstorm on engagement of refugee women in GTF activities so that they

<p>are perceived as agents of change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed to separately discuss the nexus between WPS agenda and humanitarian action. • Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women) invited GTF members to volunteer for sessions to WG on gender in particular sectors. 	
<p>Approval of final work plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women) proposed to work bilaterally with Nina Lozinschi a bit on the GTF workplan and endorse it by email. • Nina Lozinschi (Gender Equality Platform) mentioned that if there are no comments then the document is considered accepted. 	
<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Congratulated the National Coalition “Life Without Violence” on 8 years of activities. • Nina Lozinschi (Gender Equality Platform): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested to upload checklists and training materials to the UNHCR Data Portal once they are ready. • Reminded of GiHA checklist deadline by 4 May COB. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share gender and gender in humanitarian action trainings to GTF, sector leads, UNHCR Data Portal
<p>Suggestions for the Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of checklists GiHA • Discussion of the training concept • Discussion of nexus between humanitarian response and WPS 	

The next meeting is scheduled for 6 May 2022 from 10:00 -11:30 in [Zoom](#). Interpretation in Romanian and Russian will be provided.