



GBV SWG Meeting Minutes 1 April 2022
Online

Chair: UNHCR & UNFPA

Partners present: Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, Gender Centre Moldova, LCA, UNDP, Voice, Women’s Law Centre, MSF, Clear Global, IMC, WHO, IRC, CRS, Mercy Corps, La Strada, ECHO, IOM, UN WOMEN, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNHCR

Agenda:

1. Introduction
2. Presentation on Cash assistance (UNHCR) and GBV considerations into Cash assistance (UNFPA)
3. Voice presentation on women led organizations assessment (Voice)
4. Introduction to GBV integration into the Multi Sector Needs Assessment
5. Update on Referral Pathways Task Force
6. Introduction to the GBV SWG work plan and fact sheet report
7. RRP extension
8. AOB

Agenda items	Discussion	Action points
Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome and introduction • Welcome and introduction from the representative from the Gender Equality Department of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection • For new members, the minutes from the previous two meetings are shared in the interagency share point folder available here 	
Presentation on Cash assistance (UNHCR) and GBV considerations into	<p>Presentation on Cash assistance for refugees in Moldova, UNHCR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNHCR in collaboration with the government of Moldova and in partnership with Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Caritas Moldova and Diakonia is providing 	All presentations on cash as well as the GBV-CASH guidance can be found on the SharePoint here: Cash and GBV



<p>Cash assistance (UNFPA)</p>	<p>multi-purpose cash for refugees. The pilot started in March and the project was rolled out last week.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are currently two cash assistance centres in Chisinau, one in Lev Tolstoi and one larger one in MoldExpo, a cash assistance centre has also just opened in Causeni.• The amount of 2,200 Lei was agreed with the government in line with the social assistance package per month and can be renewed for vulnerable people.• New cash assistance centres will open in Dondeseni at the end of March/beginning of April, followed by Cahul, Ungheni and Orhei• PRIMES system is being used to enrol refugees in the cash assistance program, but this does not give them refugee status or register them as refugees• When people come to the cash centres or when they go enrol with mobile teams in the community, they are not registering them as refugees, they are asking what different documents that people have and some have only passport, national ID or nothing at all but can still receive support.• There is no requirement for people to stay in Moldova to receive cash.• When you enrol you get your bank card and it can take 24-48 hours to receive the cash on the card.• Are working with Maib bank as the service provider• The bank is a normal bank card to promote normalcy, it can be use in all shops with POS and also can withdraw cash• There is a website with more information on cash assistance, also can book an appointment online to go to one of the cash assistance centres.• Assistance can be provided in Romanian and Russian.• There are protection desks and referral pathways integrated into the case assistance centre. <p>Questions: Clear Global: it would be good to have the assistance and information in other languages, which of the other 20 languages in Ukraine will you be able to translate into. UNHCR: in Russian currently but if Clear Global can support with translation into other languages it would be great. Also working with WFP on host community and can link up.</p>	<p>More information on the UNHR cash assistance program Moldova can be found here: https://help.unhcr.org/moldova/ro/programul-de-asistenta-in-numerar-pentru-refugiatii-in-moldova/</p> <p>More guidance on GBV mainstreaming in CASH assistance can be found here: https://gbvaor.net/thematic-areas</p>
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<p>GBV SWG Co-lead: link cash to GBV referral pathways as it is important, we can include survivors in the cash assistance program, cash assistance information will be share in the GBV referral pathway.</p> <p>For more information on UNHCR cash assistance please visit: https://help.unhcr.org/moldova/ro/programul-de-asistenta-in-numerarar-pentru-refugiarii-in-moldova/</p> <p>GBV considerations into Cash assistance (UNFPA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation was prepared by the UNFPA global GBV CASH expert • Presentation in on main elements of the GBV CASH toolkit, then we can discuss what is our role as GBV actors in cash assistance at the end • We need to support cash and voucher assistance (CVA) GBV risk analysis in coordination with the CWG to create and roll out GBV risk mitigation mainstreaming • Need to support other sectors doing CVA, review their tools, such as WFP did a code of conduct for host families and posters with information on cash assistance and GBV, UNFPA provided the GBV mainstreaming to this process • Will share more tools from UNFPA and will be able to access remote UNFPA GBV cash technical support • UNFPA can support GBV basic principles and referral training for cash staff • There are two main toolkits which will be shared: 'UNFPA CVA and GBV Coordination toolkit', includes a focus group discussion tool which has already been used by WFP in Moldova • It is important for GBV focal points to participate in the cash working group, can review CWG tools and provide guidance • Will share a four pager GBV mainstreaming for cash assistance guide for review with the GBV SWG to adapt for the Moldova context • Will share all of the information and tools for your feedback, UNFPA can support with GBV CASH mainstreaming guidance <p>Questions:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear Global: important to communicate well with communities on GBV risk reduction, important to check with them what behaviour is/is not acceptable from a PSEA perspective and need to consult with the community on the development of these materials. • UNFPA: agreed and all materials for communication should be developed in coordination with AAP to avoid duplication • Centre for Gender Moldova: communication and the engagement of NGOs is very important, we have experience in the community, we can say from our experience it is very important to provide cash to women refugees. They come to us for hygiene items as they do not feel comfortable asking those who bring food and other items for these items. Also need to consider risks, about how they need this support for many reasons and to prevent risks. Language is important, we also need to engage people of different ethnicity coming from Ukraine and we have networks and civil society organizations from these different ethnic groups. Need to think how to take this forward. 	
<p>3.Voice presentation on women led organizations assessment (Voice)</p>	<p>Voice presentation on women led organizations assessment (Voice):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working in partnership with HIAS, are conducting multi country needs assessment in Moldova and Poland to start and then move on to Slovakia and Hungary. Are including Ukraine through remote assessment. • Concentrated on needs, best practise, and women’s rights network’s role in the response, also have Ukraine staff as part of the assessment team • The assessment teams include experts from different specific technical background including GBViE, health, and women’s rights experts • Were in Moldova for 10 days, visited sites, RAC including those that are non-accredited, went to the border, bus stations and transit camps • Conducted 7 key informant interviews (KII) with local women’s orgs, several FGDs with 11 women ages 18 – 55, two in depth KII with refugee women, 1 with police, 3 with site managers, 2 with volunteers, and met with UNFPA, UN Women, UNHCR. Had conversations with host and local community. <p>Key Findings:</p>	<p>Assessment report will be shared with the members by Voice</p>

- Local women’s NGOs are committed to the refugee response and working according to clear strategic plans. There is a hesitancy to take fundings that would distract from their missions, funding is needed as have been the main responders. Related to funding, the pressure to scale up impact on women’s organization can be detrimental. Need to get this right together. Organisations have been developing innovative approaches for refugee response, mobile teams for case management, mobile Trafficking support for survivors of trafficking and safe shelters.
- **GBV risks:** there are concerns at the border, during transit to RAC, in camps and also along the length of the border. Influx is straining the economy. Forced labour is visible and present, women in vulnerable situations are running out of cash but do not know there is cash and services available.
- Roma population is facing high levels of dissemination and are lacking documents.
- People have been told by the Ukrainian embassy they may need to go back for documents
- Refugee women who are staying in Moldova are more vulnerable, they are running out of cash and the accommodation situation becoming more of a risk. There are three types of accommodation, affiliated RAC, privately run shelters, and private homes. For the RAC it is not clear who is working in them, who can access, who is a volunteer and not. Information posted in the is not verified as what is safe and what is not. There is no access to income which makes people vulnerable to exploitation.
- Staying in private homes is not sustainable.
- Volunteers need to be trained including on PSEA. Need a system of tracking who can enter sites and who cannot.
- Voice will be working on a repot and can share that publicly and with the group.

Questions:

Centre for Gender Moldova: thanked for the presentation but surprised finding local NGOs don’t want fundings, not sure who Voice spoke with, and that local NGOs are not reorientating towards refugee response. Works as part of the collation Life without Violence. We have redirected our development fund into emergency refugee response. Are in the UN women GTF, only doing emergency program but question is what will we

	<p>do next. The most vulnerable refugees are in Moldova, they are mainly women and girls and those with retousse left so most vulnerable are here now. Also need to look at host community support, local organizations are funding from their own pocket work in the villages for vulnerable people.</p> <p>Voice: clarified some findings may be lost in translation. The organizations do want funds and are responding to refugees needs but are pulling cash from their own budgets and funding is not provided to what the organization are doing but is expecting them to do something else.</p> <p>IMC: thanked for the presentations. Voice mentioned some activates happening such as mobile CM and also services on the ground, can clarify what was found on this.</p> <p>Voice: met one organization who is putting together food parcel and gave in a pop up to hundreds of people, they only get funds for the food not for logistical/operational costs. Now doing food distributions in other locations of the country, do the distributions with local organisations working with women and children. Way to engage vulnerable women and girls to access locally support.</p> <p>IOM: assessment was done with services working with on GBV and it is good to redirect to support to fill gaps. Seen more specific risks of GBV that came up</p> <p>Voice: women were hesitant to share anything negative about the services they receive. Also they are hesitant to share situations of GBV as the services have not reached them yet to support them.</p> <p>Centre for Gender Moldova: agree, need to be very careful, not only talking about financial resources, talking about GBV and safety which haven't been considered enough. Physical, health, economic and financial security, security needs to be addressed and considered as human rights. Some girls don't have underwear, the response is not considering all needs.</p>	
<p>4. Introduction to GBV integration into the Multi Sector Needs Assessment</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A multi sector needs assessment (MSNA) will be conducted to assess the different needs of refugees in Moldova • It will consider all sectors and be a general overview • It is still in the early stages of development and the methodology and assessment plan need to be developed and shared 	<p>UNHCR to share example questions for the MSNA for the GBV SWG members to review</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We can include two or three questions in the quantitative survey with individual refugees on GBV. We can start thinking what information we would like on GBV risks and response. What is the best way forward to develop these questions together? <p>Clear Global: can consider questions on the risks, support available, how people prefer to get support if they experience GBV. It would be helpful to see a wider set of questions to be able to select/choose.</p> <p>UNFPA: ideas on the questions: It will be good to know if pregnant women and lactating women are experiencing any GBV issues related to your situation. It will be good to have a question about whether women and girls in accommodation have experienced any elements of GBV.</p> <p>GBV SWG Co-lead: can share a sample set of questions with the members to review and feedback on.</p>	
<p>5. GBV Referral Pathways task force update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The development and communication of GBV referral pathways is a major priority Had the first meeting and inputs from the main areas (police, shelter, PSS, case management, health) Plan to have another meeting to discuss the draft referral pathways in the next task force on Wednesday 6th 3-4.30pm let us know if anyone else wants to participate. It will be in UN House and also with an online link Will finalize the referral pathways and start looking at orientation and communicating them out, please let us know if you have any communication or training materials on GBV from the context <p>Clear Global: have adapted PSEA communication tools for the context can share as examples</p> <p>Gender Centre Moldova: also have good education materials on GBV can share</p>	<p>Members to share examples of existing GBV communication and training materials for Moldova/Ukraine response</p> <p>Members to inform UNFPA if they would like to participate in the referral pathways task force</p>
<p>6. Introduction to the GBV SWG work plan, fact sheet report and RRP extension</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A work plan for the GBV SWG is being drafted by the co-leads and will be shared for input and discussion with the members so we can together choose priorities Every month there will be a fact sheet on key activities, achievements and updates from the SWG, it will be externally shared to donors, experts and other key stakeholder, if you would like to share activities to input, please contact UNHCR 	<p>Members to share any GBV activity updates with UNHCR for inclusion in the monthly GBV SWG fact sheet</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The RRP timeframe has been extended until the end of the year as was initially 6 months, partners of the RRP will be submitting revised inputs in the coming days to update based on the extended timeframe. GBV RPP section will be shared once updated.	
7. AOB	Key actions for the SWG referred were the referral pathways and safety audits	

Next Meeting: Friday 8 April, 2022, 14:00 – 15:30