

MOLDOVA: GENDER TASK FORCE MEETING

Meeting Details	
Date	09 August 2022
Time	11:30 – 13:00
Venue	Zoom
Chair/ co-chair	Ms. Nina Lozinschi (Gender Equality Platform), Evghenia Hiora (UN Women)
Agenda	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates Refugee Coordination Forum (IM WG) • Updates Education WG, Q&A session (Education WG) • Updates, gaps, challenges and perspectives of work with refugees (National Coalition "Life Without Violence") • AOB 	

Participants			
#	Name	Organization	Function
1	Nina Lozinschi	Gender Equality Platform	
2	Irina Pyyko	UN Women Kyrgyzstan	Programme Analyst
3	Evghenia Hiora	UN Women	Project Officer
4	Daria Barnos	UN Women	Administrative Associate
5	Yurii Arnautov	UNHCR	Information Management WG
6	Yera Kim	UNICEF	Education Specialist
7	Stelea Natalia	UNHCR	
8	Valentina Duque	UNHCR	GBV Officer

9	Olesea Perean	UNDP	
10	Valentina Bodrug-Lungu	Gender-Centru	President
11	Irene Quizon	WHO	
12	Erin MacDonald	WHO	Prevention and Response SEAH
13	Doina Marzuolo	IOM	Project Officer PSEA / AAP
14	Anca Soldubanu	CLEAR Global	Country Program Manager Romania / Moldova - Ukraine Response
15	Andja Petrovich	IRC	
16	Doina Cazacu		
17	Dina Linetchi		
18	Eugeniu Martin	ICRC	
19	Liliana Palihovici	NGO "Institutum Virtues Civilis"	
20	Lilian Severin		
21	Marianna Prysiashniuk		Humanitarian Liaison Officer
22	Ludmila Iachim	NGO "Motivatie"	Programme Analyst
23	Renata Gradinaru	NGO "Afina"	
24	Tania Chebac	CDA	

Summary of discussions and agreements/ action items

Agenda/Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nina Lozinschi (Gender Equality Platform) welcomed participants and presented the meeting agenda. 	
<p>Updates Refugee Coordination Forum (IM WG)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yurii Arnautov (UNHCR) informed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The work on winterization process continues. The deadline for the winterization was extended till the end of the week and the plan for the rest of activities shifted a bit accordingly, but the preliminary analysis is expected for the end of August and full-scale strategy to be released early September. GTF is welcomed to ensure that gender aspects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit research questions for data analysis to Catalina Sampaio sampaio@unhcr.org

<p>are incorporated into the strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The deadline for the Joint Inter-Agency Data Analysis is also open and research questions are expected for submission. The analysis will seek to find specific information needed for programming purposes already available in the assessments completed so far and to prepare more narrow priority questions for further assessments. The questions are to be sent to Yurii Arnautov or Catalina Sampaio, emails shared in the chat. • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) thanked Yurii for the update and encouraged the members of the GTF to participate in the above activities as they are important. The information was shared with GTF members by email. • Nina Lozinschi (Gender Equality Platform) asked if NGOs working with the refugees with no sufficient financial resources are allowed to log winterization activities that have no financial coverage. • Yurii Arnautov (UNHCR) replied that there is an option to indicate if funds are available or not. However, during the elaboration of the strategy the focus will be on those projects with secured funds, the rest will be used for advocacy. Considering that initially the targeted population was calculated at the beginning of the year when the number was higher the opportunity to relocate resources for promising activities might be presented. • Nina Lozinschi (Gender Equality Platform) underlined the importance of the initiative and promised to disseminate information further. • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) informed that due to high workload and competing priorities UN Women missed the deadline for the submission of the research questions and asked to extend the deadline. • Yurii Arnautov (UNHCR) replied that the deadline is flexible and still open. 	<p>or Yurii Arnautov arnautov@unhcr.org by 20 August 2022</p>
<p>Updates Education WG, Q&A session (Education WG)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) briefly underlined the reasons behind this presentation as a follow to the issues flagged at the previous GTF meeting and invited Year Kim, the Education Specialist from UNICEF, to provide an update on the activities of the Education WG. • Yera Kim (UNICEF): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Thanked for the invitation and introduction and described shortly the activity of the Education WG led by Ministry of Education and Research in Moldova and co-led by UNICEF Moldova and UNHCR. The group has diverse membership (parliamentary, NGO, INGOs representatives) with bi-weekly meetings. ▪ Provided statistical data as of June 2022: approx. 1800 refugees officially enrolled in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share 5w data on education activities

school out of 40,000 refugee children in the country. The targeted group for activities is children and adolescents (age 3-18). Adults are currently not included in education, but solutions are being considered. Group priorities: equitable access to learning, quality of teaching and learning, systems strengthening, policy support and advocacy.

- Underlined main results: training for teachers (trained 1670 teachers, about 99 % of them are women), non-formal education, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support services, support for adolescents (including GirlsGoIT program, provision of educational supplies, rapid needs assessment (RNA)).
- Informed that the RNA was conducted by the Education Working Group (UNICEF, IsraAid, and CBS Research) in April-May among 548 Ukrainian Refugee parents (95% mothers) to identify the needs before the next school year. Final version of the report will be available and shared soon.
 - According to the findings, the main education service provider is the government followed by NGOs, online courses by UA Ministry of Education and local authorities. 78 % respondents identified Russian as spoken at home language. The lowest participation in education is among 3-6 age group with girls participating more than boys. Due to the rapid nature of the assessment the reasons for these results were not investigated.
 - 96% of girls and 77 % boys aged 16-18 used UA Ministry of Education online digital platforms, fewer boys were involved in participating in non-formal education. The rate of boys not attending any type of education is 3 times higher than among girls. The assumption is that since males over 18 are not allowed to leave Ukraine, this age group is in fact the oldest male member of the family and is required to share care responsibilities and support mothers. More qualitative data to support assumption is required. This trend is alarming because this age group is prone to develop negative coping mechanisms and lack of support from school is dangerous for both genders.
 - Lack of information on education opportunities, no ID or vaccination papers were identified as the main reasons of non-attendance. Meanwhile, for girls economic reasons of not benefiting of educational services were mentioned more often compared to boys, but for boys education was prioritized less than for girls. The results indicated the necessity to perform an additional assessment.
- Informed on preparations for the new school year: day/summer camp for approx. 4,000 participants coordinated by the Ministry of Education and Research (MER) to catch up

with classes, communication and community engagement campaign (UNICEF and MER). Considering the preference for online education provided by the Ukrainian government further recommendations were made:

- Reinforce informal education as complementary
- Strengthen collaboration with GTF to identify risks
- Provide online Romanian language courses in partnership with ANTEM and NGOs
- Promote active engagement of refugee educators/teachers (currently 13%)
- Provide IT devices and assure connection for online learning
- Mentioned the following challenges:
 - Inconsistency of data sources and data desegregation
 - Lack of knowledge of the language of instruction and IT devices
 - Access to WASH in schools
 - Lack of information on vaccination or parents resistance to re-vaccinate
 - Cross-sectoral coordination and cooperation
- **Nina Lozinschi** (Gender Equality Platform) thanked Yera Kim for the presentation and informed that the issues related to education were discussed at the recent conference with NGOs working with refugees. Service providers have identified the following obstacles: teachers were not prepared, especially in the locations, where the teaching language is Romanian and it was reported that Ukrainian children attended school without being able to understand the material, which created additional burden for teachers already struggling with the bureaucratic procedures they have to follow. Another problem is illiteracy among Roma children.
- **Valentina Bodrug-Lungu** (Gender Centru) asked if Roma were included in the RNA and if the opportunity of combining online and offline education was discussed given the uncertainty of the return to Ukraine due to the destructions caused by the war. Also, she asked about the possibility of issuance of any kind of documentation as a proof of education received in Moldova. She suggested to map the activities in education and place the results on the Ministry of Education website.
- **Yera Kim** (UNICEF) answered that according to her knowledge the survey did not reflect the needs of the Roma population and this could be considered for future assessment. Regarding the documentation she stated that those children who attend school offline will receive certificates. With regards to mapping of activities, there is data on UNICEF and partner's activities in 5w and encouraged the data sharing with GTF.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) thanked Yera for the presentation and informed that GTF was part of the team working on the questionnaire for the assessment and stated that the question regarding Roma people was there but was indicated as an optional due to its sensitive nature. Therefore, respondents could choose whether to answer it or not. She asked whether the feedback provided by the GTF to the RNA would be incorporated into the final report and on the modalities of collaboration between GTF and Education Working Group. • Doina Cazacu asked if there is data in children with disabilities and suggested that Ukrainian and Moldovan Ministries of Health share the information on vaccination to avoid the problem of double vaccination. • Yera Kim (UNICEF) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mentioned that the feedback was considered where possible. ▪ Suggested to establish focal points for enhanced collaboration and informed that in the meantime she could serve as a focal point till the end of her mission this month. ▪ Mentioned that 10% of respondents had some type of disability, 70% of them resided in Chisinau and additional assessment is required on the special needs for the adequate response. 	
<p>Updates, gaps, challenges and perspectives of work with refugees (National Coalition "Life Without Violence")</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) apologized on behalf of the National Coalition for not being able to attend this meeting due to conflicting priorities and provided an update from their side as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The National Coalition is invited to many different meetings on refugee response, what adds up to the already enormous amount of work. Refugee support work is very complex, demanding and it comes on top of the activities under mandate of the organization. It comes alongside the management of the organisation, reporting to donors, fund-raising, grant-writing, community work, awareness rising and advocacy. The organization is stretched and suggests to reduce the frequency of meeting to once in 3 months. ▪ The current stage of the refugee crisis requires more tailored and individualized solutions. For example: accommodating of refugees with disabilities in the refugee centers, funding for a complex medical investigation not covered by the government, protection of children from violent father in case they are not included in the protection order, prevention of adolescent suicide, support to mothers considering child abandonment, support to refugee women suffering from alcohol addiction, support to woman victim of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation to be shared • Concept note to be shared

<p>violence choosing to return to the violent husband.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Underlined the following challenges and gaps and provided suggestions as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It would be great, if working groups and international NGOs could periodically present their updates at the GTF meetings for better exchange of information. ▪ Communication should ideally not only be in English, as many grassroots organisations do not have language capacities on the ground and cannot meaningfully participate. ▪ It is important that the discussion if challenges and gaps leads to advocacy effort. • Nina Lozinschi (Gender Equality Platform) confirmed that the language is a considerable impediment. The messages should be translated in Romanian, so that all actors are well-informed on the recent developments and activities. At the same time, the scope and the way the working groups work is not entirely clear for local organizations. • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Informed that UN Women plans to organize an informative session on the role of the GTF, gender focal points and the way forward to offer more clarity to the members on the scope and the vision of the GTF. Tentative date – in September, additional information will be shared by email. Evghenia encouraged to suggest topics for agenda, if any. ▪ Suggested to switch to meetings once in 3 weeks with possibility to organize ad-hoc meetings in-between, if necessary. Members agreed. • Nina Lozinschi (Gender Equality Platform) mentioned that there are questions on services available for refugees, especially health services and suggested to involve state actors in the discussion. Evghenia informed that that state actors are represented in the health working group and that UN Women will seek to invite them to deliver an update at one of the next GTF meetings. 	
<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provided a brief update on the mapping of NGOs providing services to refugees. It will tentatively start in September, will cover different locations in Moldova, will focus on cash, livelihoods, protection, mental health and psycho-social support, food security, shelter and non-food items, wash and education and among others will focus on local women-led and women rights organizations. Besides identifying the main actors in the field, the mapping will spotlight the needs of the organizations for more tailored support. ▪ Informed of the upcoming online Gender in Humanitarian Action training for frontline 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link for pre-registration shared in chat for distribution

<p>workers planned tentatively for August 18 or 24 with the duration of 4 hours and encouraged the members of the GTF to consider participation and spread the information across their networks. The trainer is Heba Zayyan, the specialist with more than 20 years in the field of Gender in Humanitarian Action.</p>	
<p>Material shared</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-registration for training for frontline workers https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSc3-udWx3GUaJiwio2NzNwNBmAYQMSTdJ2dENFjsqQEEzpBEA/viewform?usp=sf_link • Kobo form for the Winterization submission https://enketo.unhcr.org/x/qgj221qm • Research questions for the Joint Data Analysis to be sent to Catalina Sampaio sampaio@unhcr.org or Yurii Arnautov arnautov@unhcr.org. 	

The next meeting is scheduled for 30 August 2022, 11:30 – 13:00.