

**UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION**  
**REGIONAL GENDER TASK FORCE (RGTF) MEETING**  
**08 June 2022, 16h00 – 17h30 (Istanbul time)**

Meeting Minutes

**1. Welcome and Brief Introductions**

- The chairs invited new members to introduce themselves. Analee Pepper from **GenCap** joined the call for the first time. Analee is the new GenCap advisor replacing Dana Barón within Ukraine. She works primarily with the Humanitarian Coordinator and under the cluster mechanism.

**2. Plan of Action/Work Plan (UN Women)**

- a. **Mapping of Approaches/Interventions that actors are taking on targeted and mainstreaming efforts around gender** ([Mapping Matrix](https://www.dropbox.com/s/f01a1lkz218prg3/5W_RGTF_template_21.04.2022.xlsx?dl=0)[https://www.dropbox.com/s/f01a1lkz218prg3/5W\\_RGTF\\_template\\_21.04.2022.xlsx?dl=0](https://www.dropbox.com/s/f01a1lkz218prg3/5W_RGTF_template_21.04.2022.xlsx?dl=0)) – **due on 18 May**.
- **UN Women** (Ekram Elhuni) reminded colleagues to include their inputs into the document. If anyone experiences any issues with the link to the matrix in the Dropbox, just reach out to her. Ekram also noted that the matrix is a living document and should be maintained/updated on a regular basis. It may be revisited for its utility at a later point. At the moment, it is intended to help organisations identify trends in work, coverage and gaps across the different regional and country level response structures as an ongoing need.

**Action Point:** *RGTF members to access and continue to fill the [Mapping Matrix](#).*

**Gender Analyses (CARE International)**

- a. **Regional Inter-Agency Rapid Gender Analysis (RGA) – Update and reminder to add existing resources or links of relevance to the Analysis within the [Gender Analysis Sub-folder](#).**
- **CARE International** (Siobhán Foran) provided an update to new participants on the Regional RGA which is advanced in its work through an Action Team around the four areas of inquiry (Aols) (namely in a. intersectional gender, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), gender-based violence (GBV), women’s leadership and participation and decision making). A fifth area to the Aols will be added to focus on how each of these areas are coordinated in different countries and also across the region. The population of the Aol matrix is due until 10 June 2022 and all details of the Regional RGA including ToRs, the Action Team, and timeline are available under [Gender Analysis Sub-folder](#). Regarding the timeline: the first draft will be provided to RGTF by 26 June and full report will be ready by the end of July. There are plans to conduct validation exercises with local partners on how we make sure that the voices of women’s organisations across Ukraine and region are well captured and the main findings and recommendations are validated.
  - **UN Women** (Ekram Elhuni) mentioned that she provided a presentation on the RGTF to the Issue-based Coalition on Gender Equality (IBC-GE) that took place on 6 June. Specific threads highlighted to IBC-GE members was the work on Regional RGA and that the IBC-GE would have the opportunity to provide comments and validate once the draft is ready.

**3. Advocacy (CARE International)**

- a. **Priority Areas/Advocacy Asks – Update**
- As the RGTF’s advocacy work/messages are linked to the outcomes of the Regional RGA and clustered under the five Aols, there was nothing to report (NTR) on this agenda item. However,

**CARE International** (Siobhán Foran) mentioned that the RGTF may need to start thinking about its advocacy strategy in moving ahead so as to be ready once the Regional RGA findings and recommendations are available.

- **UNICEF** (Sheeba Harma) asked for the feasibility and necessity of conducting a regional assessment while having a plenty of RGAs available from different organisations such as VOICE Amplified, CARE, UN Women etc. which clearly show the gaps, challenges as well as asks. **CARE International** (Siobhán Foran) highlighted that the Regional RGA is not a new assessment which aims to collect primary data but consolidate the findings of recent assessments to feed into decisions that are to be taken at regional level. She noted that the available assessments are either country specific or fragmented in thematic areas. Therefore, with the regional RGA it is planned to have an assessment that provides robust evidence across the region around the five AoIs by consolidating available data and analyses.

b. **[Presentation by VOICE on the reports series \*When the Sky Closes: The Unprecedented Crisis Facing Women and Girls Fleeing Ukraine\*](#)**

- **VOICE Amplified** (Sharifa Abdul Aziz) introduced the organisation's overarching goal as ensuring greater direct resourcing of local women's organizations. She underlined that the aim of the assessment is to better understand the needs and develop timely and proper recommendations and programming with a specific focus on gender-based violence (GBV) prevention, risk mitigation and response services. The assessments were conducted remotely in Moldova, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Hungary and Ukraine between 25 March and 15 April 2022, through key informant interviews, focus group discussions and observations at different sites. The overall findings of the assessment include:
  - o Funding for the crisis is unmatched as compared to previous emergencies;
  - o There are major risks of trafficking;
  - o A lack of access to cash assistance;
  - o A lack of centralized, trusted, accessible and robust information;
  - o A lack of clarity around the available VAWG/GBVIE services and where;
  - o Regressive legal frameworks and lack of funding for WROs as a long-standing issue;
  - o A lack of safe and sustainable housing;
  - o Food security as a major issue;
  - o Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and prevention work was not robust;
  - o Access to essential services is limited, with double discrimination being a key issue against specific populations (Roma, LGBTIQ+, people of color etc.).

Overall recommendations were compiled under four key areas:

1. Ensuring a gender-sensitive humanitarian response by supporting women's movements across the region.
2. Fulfilling commitments to localization by shifting power/strengthened decision-making to women-led organizations.
3. Addressing gaps in the protection of women and children.
4. Improving access to essential services.

The **[full presentation](#)** can be accessed through the link and will be attached to the meeting minutes email.

- **UNICEF** (Sheeba Harma) asked to VOICE Amplified around the next steps and how the RGTF can combine forces with them to strengthen joint efforts. **VOICE Amplified** (Sharifa Abdul Aziz) mentioned that a number of presentations were conducted on the findings of the assessments both at country and regional level including at the GBV Task Force as well as with various donors such as USAID. This is to ensure that more funding is channeled directly to the WROs and

confirmed that VOICE Amplified will continue to use the findings as a strong advocacy tool. **CARE International** (Siobhán Foran) informed participants that VOICE Amplified is part of the Regional RGA Action Team and will feed their experience and findings into the Regional RGA.

- **ACTED** (Svitlana Zhavoronka) thanked to VOICE Amplified for their report especially for clearly underlining what NGO work at the field level means. She has referred to the report many times while working with the donors. She also indicated that the assessment referred to the top-down approach of donor organizations, which needs to move more toward partnership.

#### 4. Technical Capacity Support (UN Women)

##### a. Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) Training for Moldova - Update.

- On the trainings, **UN Women** (Ekram) reaffirmed that the RGTF is working closely with Moldova GTF to develop four sets of gender trainings including information sessions for different audiences (governmental counterparts, sector leads, GTF members and front-line workers) using different modalities. The aim is to conduct the trainings during June including translation of training materials into Romanian and Russian. The Regional Action Team for trainings is made up of colleagues from UN Women, WHO, UNICEF and Corus International. The Country Action Team consists of UN Women, UNDP and UNHCR. Actors, at regional and country level, are providing financial and/or technical support to accommodate the capacity building needs. Once the trainings are complete, discussions will be initiated around technical capacity building support required in other hosting countries.
- **WHO** (Milena) asked about engaging with the health modules and methodologies. Another **WHO** colleague (Margaret Lamunu) clarified that they will provide technical support to the overall trainings but more specifically, WHO will financially support the front line workers' training on GBV, mental health and SRH which can be expanded in the future based on internal discussions.

#### 5. Brief Presentations and Discussion (CARE International)

##### a. **Moldova GTF Update**

- **UN Women** (Ekram) mentioned that the feedback received from RGTF members on the gender checklist for Moldova is now reflected and the document is almost finalized. Ukraine GiHA Sub-Working Group has received the checklist to re-adapt it to their context to utilize.

##### b. **Ukraine GiHA Sub-Working Group (SWG) Update.**

- **GenCap** (Analee) shared a status update on the Ukraine Gender Alert under development by IOM, UNHCR and GenCap with support from UN Women. Additionally, the Gender Review is underway that focuses on how the response is meeting certain gender minimum standards, with the desk review on-going. The first draft is expected to be shared soon. Findings of the Gender Review are expected to inform the actions of the GiHA SWG. Meanwhile, the GenCap is also working on the expansion of the SWG through new members to accelerate the operationalization of its work. **OXFAM** (Edith) expressed interest in joining the GiHA SWG.
- **FAO** (Anna) highlighted that more experts are being deployed to the field and currently, a sexual misconduct training is being conducted. She indicated that it would be useful to know if FAO experts are involved in the GiHA SWG so that they may bring expertise on in-kind support in agriculture where there are a range of gender implications.

##### c. **Other Country level Updates.**

- NTR

#### 6. **AOB**

- NTR.

## Meeting Participants

No.	Organisation	Name/position	Email
1	ACTED	Svitlana Zhavoronka Gender Equality Advisor	svitlana.zhavoronkova@acted.org
2	CARE International (Co-chair)	Siobhán Foran, Regional Gender in Emergencies Coordinator, Co-chair	foran@careinternational.org
3	European Office of the World Scout Bureau	Catriona Graham, Director of Partnerships and Advocacy	<a href="mailto:catriona.graham@scout.org">catriona.graham@scout.org</a>
4	FAO	Anna Jenderedjian Gender Mainstreaming and Social Protection specialist in FAO	anna.jenderedjian@fao.org
5	GenCap	Analee Pepper, GenCap Advisor	analee.pepper@gmail.com
6	IPPF	Clare Hollowell, Senior SGBV Advisor, IPPF Global Humanitarian Team,	chollowell@ippfen.org
7	Oxfam	Edith Muluhyia, Gender in Crisis Lead	edith.muluhyia@oxfam.org
8	UNICEF	Sheeba Harma Regional Gender Adviser	shharma@unicef.org
9	UN Women (Co-Chair)	Ekram El-Huni, Regional Programme Coordinator & Humanitarian Advisor	ekram.elhuni@unwomen.org
10		Saima Abbasi, Humanitarian Gender Adviser (Ukraine)	saima.abbasi@unwomen.org
11		Maria Karadenizli, Programme Specialist HACRO	maria.karadenizli@unwomen.org
12		Heba Zayyan, Programme Specialist, Moldova	heba.zayyan@unwomen.org
13			
14	WFP	Andrea Castorina, Head of Safeguards (MENA)	andrea.castorina@wfp.org
15	WHO	Irene Quizon, WHO's response on PSEA	quizoni@who.int
16		Daria Popova, Gender Equality and Human Rights FocalPoint–Ukraine	popovad@who.int
17		Milena Selivanov, Project Support Officer	selivanovm@who.int
18		Margaret Orunya Lamunu, Medical Epidemiologist and Project lead for communicable disease control in humanitarian crisis	lamunum@who.int
19	UNFPA	Gabriela Alvarez Minte, Regional Gender Advisor	alvarezminte@unfpa.org
20	Voice Amplified	Sharifa Abdul Aziz, GBViE Specialist	sharifa@voiceamplified.org