

**UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION**  
**REGIONAL GENDER TASK FORCE (RGTF) MEETING**

**20 April 2022, 16h00 – 17h30 (Istanbul time)**

**Meeting Minutes**

**1. Welcome and Brief Introductions (RGTF Co-chairs)**

The chairs invited new members to introduce themselves. New members included the following:

- Irene Kuzemko, Organisation Intersex International Europe e.V (OII Europe), Capacity & Community Building Officer of OII Europe
- Olga Vorontsova-Mykhailova, UNHCR
- Kelly Joseph, Voice Amplified
- Catriona Graham, Director of Partnerships and Advocacy, European Office of the World Scout Bureau

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

**Save the Children** (Nina Gora) updated on the mapping exercise undertaken to provide details about the approaches that different actors are taking on targeting and mainstreaming gender into the regional refugee response. The starting point to the mapping was inputs provided via the Chat box during the last meeting which have now been consolidated into a preliminary document; however, more work is needed to provide a comprehensive update as inputs are still missing from many GTF members. It is also important to map out within the analysis who is partnering with who to avoid overwhelming women's rights organisations. UN Women (Ekram El-Huni) suggested expanding the template to include further details related to interventions (where, who, what and partners) based on other approaches being used. UNFPA (Gabriela Alvarez Minte) mentioned that some UN agencies cannot partner with smaller organisations because of existing procedures but that these organisations could be recommended for other organisations and recommended to reflect this in the mapping. CARE International (Siobhán Foran) noted the strong emerging theme around engagement with women's organisations and the importance of mapping out how they are being engaged across the refugee response.

***Action Point: UN Women will put together a mapping matrix and circulate to GTF members to update prior to the next meeting.***

**3. Gender Analyses (CARE International)**

***a. Updates from members on gender and/or diversity assessments - existing or planned - in any of the relevant countries***

- CARE International (Siobhán) reminded members about the presentation during the last meeting of the Rapid Gender Analysis for Poland and invited GTF members to alert members to other planned analysis and assessments. This was followed up with the suggestion for a regional gender analysis by the end of June which will be a consolidation of analysis focused on key areas to inform the regional refugee response plan and advocacy initiatives.
- The Terms of Reference for the proposed regional gender analysis has been shared with GTF members for review and input.
- **Voice** (Kelly Joseph) updated that they have just wrapped up a multi-country Rapid GBV Assessment covering Moldova, Hungary, Romania, Poland and Slovakia; Ukraine is still ongoing and will be done remotely. The assessment focuses on the needs and risks of IDP/refugee women and

girls and includes a focus on frontline organisations that have been responding since day one and looking at their needs. Many organisations have had to pivot to address the refugee response without adequate funding. It is focused on GBV response (including cash, psycho-social support, SRHR, legal support and access to safe housing and decent work). The assessment will be publicly shared next week and separate briefings will be organised to share some of the more sensitive findings. Voice is working in partnership with HIAS and CARE USA.

- **UNHCR** (Vorontsova-Mykhailova) asked about coordination with UNHCR and Kelly responded that Voice has a partnership with local organisations through UNHCR and is participating in all of the UNHCR-led coordination groups and has been sharing emerging findings in these groups.
- **CARE International** (Siobhán) highlighted how important the analysis of Voice will be for the regional gender analysis that will be conducted by the GTF. She also noted CARE International's plan to cooperate with the Centre for Reproductive Health and Rights for an RGA in Poland.
- **CRR** (Leah Hocht) noted that they will conduct a documentation of SRHR barriers and needs in Slovakia and Hungary as well, and Romania.
- **UNFPA** (Gabriela Alvarez Minte) highlighted ongoing monitoring efforts with regard to SRHR including in Moldova.
- **PLAN International** (Keren Simons) updated that CARE and PLAN are discussing conducting a joint RGA in Romania

#### ***b. Regional Inter-Agency Rapid Gender Analysis – Discussion on the Draft TOR circulated***

- **CARE International** (Siobhán) reminded GTF members on areas for decision including areas of inquiry within the regional gender analysis and the need to link the analysis with key advocacy efforts (applying an evidence-based approach). She noted the strong interest of the GTF related to SRHR and engagement with/support for women-led and women's rights organisations.
- The draft TOR for the proposed Regional Inter-Agency Rapid Gender Analysis were reviewed and discussed.
- **UNFPA** (Gabriela) highlighted the importance of intersectional analysis (including older women and Roma women) and focusing on inequalities within the context of higher income countries.
- **CRR (Leah)** noted the political and legal context in EU border countries which is restrictive and hostile in some countries. Suggested to be mindful of particular issues around particular rights and of the hostile context that CSOs are working in (particularly in Poland and Hungary) and the need to apply a sophisticated approach to address long-term issues of these organisations to ensure that it is sustained (through financial and political support). Understanding the humanitarian context and gender focus, need to use the analysis to address and raise these longer-term issues faced by rights-based organisations.
- **CARE International** (Siobhán) agreed and noted the need to include analysis on the status quo in countries prior to crisis included challenging environment for particular CSOs and rights-based organisations.
- **World Bank** (Liat Biron) – noted upcoming gender assessment and agreed with the importance of inter-sectional approaches (addressing needs of LGBTQI+ persons, Roma, older persons and persons with disabilities).
- **Voice** (Kelly) – the need for close coordination and thoughtfulness in terms of approach in addressing evolving needs where there was previously shrinking civil society space; underlined the importance of looking at the safety and security of organisations who are now part of the frontline response. The need to undertake this analysis in a coordinated manner now is critical.
- **CARE International** (Siobhán) noted the importance of placing a strong focus on intersectionality in the regional analysis, SRHR and civil society space (including where these areas intersect) will be critical areas of inquiry for the regional assessment. The need for a core group of RTG members to drive the analysis was highlighted – CARE International has a dedicated person (Christina Haneef).

- **UN Women** (Ekram) also indicated that they will be part of the core group and suggested to give a timeline to members to indicate their interest.
- **Centre for Reproductive Rights** (Leah) also expressed interest to participate in the group.

**Action Point:** *GTF members to indicate their interest to be part of a core task group to lead the Regional Inter-Agency Rapid Gender Analysis.*

#### 4. Advocacy (CARE International)

##### **a. Presentation of and discussion on the feedback from members on priority areas and establishment of an Action Group**

- **CARE International** (Siobhán) highlighted the emerging eight advocacy asks from the last meeting and based on follow-up discussions (Corus International, CRR, STC and CARE).
- The draft document is in the shared RGTF Dropbox.

**Action Point:** *GTF members to continue to add to the draft advocacy messages and asks into the draft document. The draft document is accessible at: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/10x1no1d1kuqv5f/Ukraine%20RGTF%20draft%20Advocacy%20Asks-19.04.2022.docx?dl=0>*

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

##### **a. Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) Training – Establishment of an Action Team on Training and discussion on the design and delivery of training (Draft Concept Note)**

- **UN Women** (Ekram) reminded members of the past discussions with regard to possible areas of country-level support and the emerging request for support from the Moldova Gender Task Force and also based on the RGA findings for Moldova.
- A draft concept note for a pilot Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) training workshop for Moldova was shared and discussed. Preliminary feedback from Moldova was to keep the training short and light and to roll it out quickly.
- There is a core group now with UN Women, WFP, UNICEF and Corus International to support the pilot training together with the Moldova Gender Task Force. A roving team may also be needed to assess and identify evolving needs in other refugee response countries.
- **CRR** (Leah) asked who the target group would be for training. Ekram responded that it would be government counterparts, RRP structures at country level and other humanitarian actors.
- **Corus** (Noshaba Zafar) confirmed agreement with the idea for a roving team for the trainers.
- **IPPT** (Clare Hollowell) updated that they are currently working in Ukraine to develop a training on clinical management related to rape cases for clinicians/health care providers – this is being shared through the GBV Cluster (anyone interested to collaborate should reach out to Clare).

**Action Point:** *GTF members to indicate if they would like to be involved with the roll-out of GiHA training in Moldova.*

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

Standing items (to be confirmed by the relevant members ahead of the meeting)

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

Colleagues were unable to join but **UN Women** (Ekram) noted that the Moldova GTF are still mapping out work plan with timeframes and indicators. The REACH-led rapid multi-sectoral needs assessment (MSNA) was also mentioned with the GTF providing inputs and the finalization of the Country Chapter to the RRP and ask for support in finalizing the RRP indicators.

b. Ukraine GiHA update.

Colleagues were unable to join but **UN Women** (Ekram) updated that the establishment of a GiHA Working Group in Ukraine is underway and is being coordinated by a GenCap within OCHA and UN Women. **UN Women** (Ekram) shared contacts for organisations interested to participate in the Ukraine GiHA Working Group and **CARE International** (Siobhán) noted that there is interest to have a CSO co-chair for the Ukraine GiHA Working Group.

## 7. AOB

**UNICEF** (Sheeba Harma) noted number of assessments and asked whether there is an overview of the key gender gaps to support agencies in addressing these in their work.

- **CARE International** (Siobhán) noted the lack of attention to issues related to intersectionality and fragmentation, SRHR challenges and understanding the civil society environment. There are also gaps in analysis of challenges for adolescent girls and situation and experience of LGBTQI+ and men.
- **CRR** (Leah) also underlined the need to maintain a specific focus on issues related to human trafficking.
- **UNFPA** (Gabriela) noted potential blind spots in mapping targeted needs of CSOs and affected women and girls and to bring these voices into international discussions and spaces.
- **CARE International** (Siobhán) highlighted the importance.
- **Corus** (Noshaba) suggested that relevant clusters at the country level (especially in Poland) have guidance and checklists (including do's and don'ts) on GiHA from the RGTF to support their work and ensure gender integration.
- **UN Women** (Ekram) noted that for Moldova, checklists are being drafted and suggested that these could be adapted for the other contexts.
- **UNICEF** (Sheeba) will share resources/reference materials that they have developed to support further guidance to country-level clusters.

## Participants

No.	Organisation	Name/position	Email
1	ACTED	Svitlana Zhavoronka Gender Equality Advisor	<a href="mailto:svitlana.zhavoronkova@acted.org">svitlana.zhavoronkova@acted.org</a>
2	CARE International (Co-chair)	Siobhán Foran, Regional Gender in Emergencies Coordinator	<a href="mailto:Foran@careinternational.org">Foran@careinternational.org</a>
3	Corus International	Noshaba Zafar - Senior Technical Advisor, Gender-Based Violence Plus Emergency Protection Specialist (TBC)	<a href="mailto:nzafar@corusinternational.org">nzafar@corusinternational.org</a>
4	Center for Reproductive Rights	Leah Hoctor, Senior Director for Europe, Center for Reproductive Rights	<a href="mailto:lhoctor@reprorights.org">lhoctor@reprorights.org</a>
5	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>
6	FAO	Anna Jenderedjian	<a href="mailto:anna.jenderedjian@fao.org">anna.jenderedjian@fao.org</a>

		Gender Mainstreaming and Social Protection specialist in FAO	
7	ILO	Maria José Chamorro, Gender Specialist (Budapest Office)	<a href="mailto:chamorro@ilo.org">chamorro@ilo.org</a>
8		Elena Dedova	<a href="mailto:dedova@ilo.org">dedova@ilo.org</a>
9	International Rescue Committee	Nicole Constantine - Lead Technical Advisor for Poland and at a regional level	<a href="mailto:nicole.constantine@rescue.org">nicole.constantine@rescue.org</a>
10	IPPF	Clare Hollowell, Senior SGBV Advisor, IPPF Global Humanitarian Team,	<a href="mailto:chollowell@ippfen.org">chollowell@ippfen.org</a>
11	Médecins du Monde France	Federica Villa – Gender-based violence in humanitarian settings Advisor	<a href="mailto:federica.villa@medecinsdumonde.net">federica.villa@medecinsdumonde.net</a>
12	Organisation Intersex International Europe e.V (OII Europe)	Irene Kuzemko, Capacity & Community Building Officer of OII Europe	<a href="mailto:irene@oiieurope.org">irene@oiieurope.org</a>
13	Plan International	Keren Simons, Gender in Emergencies	<a href="mailto:keren.simons@plan-international.org">keren.simons@plan-international.org</a>
14	Première Urgence International	Durkeft Said Tahir, Protection and Gender Technical Adviser, Poland	<a href="mailto:dsaittahir@premiere-urgence.org">dsaittahir@premiere-urgence.org</a>
15	Save the Children	Nina Gore, Head of Gender Equality in Humanitarian	<a href="mailto:nina.gora@savethechildren.org">nina.gora@savethechildren.org</a>
16	UNAIDS	Gary Jones Senior Advisor, Security, Humanitarian and Fragile Countries	<a href="mailto:JonesG@unaids.org">JonesG@unaids.org</a>
17	UNHCR	Olga Vorontsova-Mykhailova	<a href="mailto:vorontso@unhcr.org">vorontso@unhcr.org</a>
18	UNFPA	Gabriela Alvarez Minte Gender Regional Advisor	<a href="mailto:alvarezminte@unfpa.org">alvarezminte@unfpa.org</a>
19	UNICEF	Sheeba Harma Regional Gender Adviser	<a href="mailto:shharma@unicef.org">shharma@unicef.org</a>
20	UN Women (Co-Chair)	Ekram El-Huni, Regional Programme Coordinator & Humanitarian Advisor	<a href="mailto:ekram.elhuni@unwomen.org">ekram.elhuni@unwomen.org</a>
21	WFP	Rimu Byadya, Regional Gender Advisor	<a href="mailto:Rimu.byadya@wfp.org">Rimu.byadya@wfp.org</a>
22	WHO	Galina Lesco, GBV Consultant, Moldova	<a href="mailto:galina.lesco@gmail.com">galina.lesco@gmail.com</a>
23		Isabel Yordi Regional Advisor on Gender Equality	<a href="mailto:yordiaguirrei@who.int">yordiaguirrei@who.int</a>
24		Daria Popova	<a href="mailto:popovad@who.int">popovad@who.int</a>
25	World Bank	Liat Biron, Consultant	<a href="mailto:liatbiron@gmail.com">liatbiron@gmail.com</a>
26	Voice Amplified	Kelly Joseph	<a href="mailto:kelly@voiceamplified.org">kelly@voiceamplified.org</a>
27		Nino Ugrekhelidze	