

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

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Brief Introductions

- The chairs invited new members to introduce themselves. Chrissy Haneef from CARE joined the call for the first time. Chrissy works predominantly on Rapid Gender Analyses (RGAs) and supports the RGTF's Action Team on the Regional RGA. Saima Abbasi, UN Women's incoming Gender Advisor, will be in Lviv, Ukraine as of 1 June and also joined the RGTF call.

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) – due on 18 May.**
- **UN Women** (Ekram Elhuni) noted that some inputs were received from Action Aid and CARE and reminded other 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 on an ongoing basis. We may revisit the continuity and utility of the matrix at a later point. At the moment, it is intended to help organisations identify trends in work, coverage and gaps.

Action Point: RGTF members to access and continue to fill the Mapping Matrix.

Gender Analyses (CARE International)

- a. **Regional Inter-Agency Rapid Gender Analysis – Update and reminder to add existing resources or links of relevance to the Analysis within the Gender Analysis Sub-folder.**
- **CARE International** (Chrissy Haneef) updated that the Action Group has met twice – 12 and 19 May – and plans to continue to meet on a weekly basis. The Regional RGA is progressing well. She highlighted the four areas of inquiry and the key questions identified per area of inquiry. This week, resources are being consolidated and updated. She encouraged other RGTF members to share further resources, analyses, assessments, reports, updates, etc. from 24 February. The current compilation of resources will be reviewed at the end of the week, and the team lead for each of the areas of inquiry (Aols) is reviewing the data and compiling it into a spreadsheet with commentary on the choice of data point and what it highlights – knowledge or knowledge gap. The completed spreadsheet will be the foundation for the full analysis, which it is planned to complete in two weeks. The Regional RGA is based on secondary data in order to gather existing data, to identify gaps but not to overburden operational partners gathering primary data. Regarding the timeline, key dates are: resource sharing by Friday; first draft back to RGTF by 26 June and full report by the end of July. There are plans to conduct validation exercises with local partners. The planning for this exercise is at the early stages.
- **UN Women** (Jo-Anne Bishop) mentioned recent discussions that took place in Geneva between UN Women and CARE International where updates were provided on the Regional RGA, as well as the RGA for Ukraine. The feedback from partners is there is considerable value in having consolidated analysis of key trends in Ukraine and across the region. Suggestions were made to include targeted launch events in Brussels, Geneva and possibly in refugee response host countries.
- **FAO** (Anna Jenderedjian) agrees that the two-week cycle for the RGTF meetings works well in terms of the updates. On the platform, Anna asked if the launch will also be online and not only

in Geneva and Brussels. Anna has materials to add, which are general and not therefore specific to the areas of inquiry. Looking at the Regional RGA analysis documents the Dropbox, she was unsure where to add them. **CARE** (Chrissy Haneef) suggested adding to Aol #1 – intersectional gender – where the team will share relevant information with other Aol. Otherwise, Aol #5, which includes materials that cross-cut the other four Aols.

- **CARE** (Siobhán Foran), responding to a comment in the chatbox by **Centre for Reproductive Rights** (Leah Hctor) agreed that engagement with and amplifying the voices of women’s organisations in this process and launch will be critical. The Action Team is discussing how to achieve this in the analysis process through the planned validation workshop(s), as well as in the launch events. **CARE** (Chrissy Haneef) described for the broader RGTF the current thinking of the Action Team on the Regional RGA on the validation workshop(s) with local women’s CSOs.
- The question of what the validation workshops should look like was opened to the members of the RGTF. While waiting for feedback, **CARE** (Siobhán) and **UN Women** (Ekram) described some of the pros and cons associated with a single validation workshop and a workshop per Aol. Both agreed that the Action Team is leaning towards a validation workshop per Aol to allow more in-depth discussion and profile for local women’s CSOs.

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

- **UNHCR** (Olga Vorontsova-Mykhailova) updated that the first meeting of the GBV sub-working group took place on Monday, 16 May. The next meeting will be on Monday, 30 May. There will be UNFPA and UNHCR briefing about GBV safety audits conducted in Moldova. VOICE will be presenting their work on GBV assessments. **VOICE** (Sharifa) noted that the report is embargoed and will be released for wider dissemination on 26 May. It focuses on the response to GBV and the gaps in the various countries, as well as the work of and challenges encountered by women’s rights/CSO groups. **VOICE** will give details of the launch of and link to the report to this group.

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, there was again nothing to report (NTR) on this agenda item.

4. Technical Capacity Support (UN Women)

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

- On the training, **UN Women** (Ekram) noted that the proposal and budget for the Moldova GTF trainings has been finalized. The Action Team has fleshed out details of the trainings for the different audiences and using different modalities. The latest version of the Concept Note is in the Dropbox if members would like to take a look and provide any feedback.
- **UN Women** (Heba Zayyan) updated the group on developments around the training. She noted outreach efforts with other actors in the group to advance collective action – including training that targets and is, therefore, appropriate for the needs and capacity of GTF members, sector leads, government and the frontline service providers. The methodology for the training has been adapted and contextualised for each stakeholder group to ensure that it is informed by the voices and needs of each sector. It is proposed that some trainings will be standalone while others will be incorporated into multi-sectoral initiatives.
- **UN Women** (Ekram) noted the intention to further adapt and modify the training materials for other country contexts. The aim for Moldova is to deliver the trainings during June.

Action Point: RGTF members to provide any comments or feedback on the Moldova Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) Training Concept Note and Budget.

5. Brief Presentations and Discussion (CARE International)

a. Moldova GTF Update.

Presentation of the Moldova GiHA Checklist

- **UN Women** (Heba) highlighted that the checklist is based on the IASC Gender in Humanitarian Action Handbook. A first draft was adapted to the context, shared with the GTF Moldova focal points and responded to the feedback received. The checklist aligns with the work of each of the 11 working groups in Moldova and gives examples of types of indicators to be used, sex with age and disability disaggregated data (SADDD) and suggestions related to gender analysis relevant to each working group. Examples are included to support the working groups across the different sector areas. Responding to an observation from the **GenCap Adviser** (Dana Barón Romero), Heba noted the request for the RGTF to peer review the checklist. The draft checklist is currently over 40 pages but it is important to note that it is only 2-3 pages per sector. The checklists will be shared for review by the members if they wish to do so.
- **UN Women** (Ekram) underlined the possible to adapt and customize the checklist for other country contexts.
- **WFP** (Andrea Castorina) stressed the importance of contextualizing these checklists to the specificities of this crisis. **UN Women** (Heba) confirmed that this was an important consideration.
- **CARE** (Siobhán) asked whether it is useful to have common minimum standards among the gender task teams in the region to address issues of expediency for development of the checklists and their translation.

Action Point: *RGTF members to peer review the [Moldova GiHA Checklist](#) by 2 June.*

b. Ukraine GiHA Update.

- **GenCap Ukraine** (Dana Barón Romero) shared an update on the GiHA review that is being conducted based on surveys with the UNCT/HCT based on five components of commitments to / responsibilities for gender equality - leadership, financing, programming, gender coordination mechanisms (i.e. GiHA in Ukraine), localization and accountability to affected populations (AAP). A desk review together with surveys will be conducted to review commitments and, through a report to be produced out of the survey, inform work going forward.
- A new GenCap is to be deployed and will focus on Ukraine, replacing Dana.
- **UN Women** (Saima) noted that three training sessions are also planned (so far, nearly 120 participants are registered for the upcoming training on 27 May). The training is organized by UN Women, the GenCap and the GiHA Sub-Working Group.

c. Other Country level Updates.

- **UNICEF** (Sheeba Harma) provided an update on her ongoing mission to Poland. She noted that colleagues on the ground are overstretched and absorption of training is challenging. UNICEF has been focused on establishing its presence on the ground and reaching out to key partners. She noted the challenges of addressing gender issues in a context like Poland and how to navigate (i.e. using the term domestic violence vs. gender-based violence) and finding credible and accepted partners in country. UNICEF is bringing in the dimension of women and girls without explicitly framing the work as relating to 'gender', as this is a problematic term/concept in Poland. Beyond training and capacity building, discussions are ongoing in terms of how to address gender issues (including SRHR and PSEA) in a practical way. Data remains a gap in terms of age and sex disaggregation. It is also challenging to pinpoint where communities are located. The needs are for practical know-how (beyond training). She also noted the value of having mapping of key partners at the regional level.
- **UN Women (Ekram)** reminded RGTF, Sheeba and all the members about the regional mapping exercise, which some members of the group have started to populate. Ekram again encouraged

colleagues to update as Sheeba's intervention and question demonstrated the value of a mapping that is completed and up-to-date.

- **CARE** (Chrissy), responded to a query from **UNICEF** (Sheeba) and updated on plans to partner with the **Centre for Reproductive Rights** (Leah Hctor) to conduct an updated RGA in Poland focusing on SRHR.

6. AOB

- NTR.

Meeting Participants

No.	Organisation	Name/position	Email
1	ACTED	Svitlana Zhavoronka Gender Equality Advisor	svitlana.zhavoronkova@acted.org
2	ActionAid	Enrica Piras - Senior Emergency Manager – Poland in the interim until dedicated person appointed	enrica.piras@actionaid.org
3	CARE International (Co-chair)	Siobhán Foran, Regional Gender in Emergencies Coordinator, Co-chair	Foran@careinternational.org
4		Chrisy Haneef, Senior GiE Adviser, CARE Rapid Response Team, RGAs	christina.haneef@care.ca
5	Center for Reproductive Rights	Leah Hctor, Senior Director for Europe, Center for Reproductive Rights	lhctor@reprorights.org
6	FAO	Anna Jenderedjian Gender Mainstreaming and Social Protection specialist in FAO	anna.jenderedjian@fao.org
7	GenCap	Dana Barón, GenCap Advisor	dana.baronromero@un.org
8	IOM	Heather Komenda	hkomenda@iom.int
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10	UNAIDS	Elena Kiryushina	kiryushinae@unaids.org
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14	UNHCR	Olga Vorontsova-Mykhailova	vorontso@unhcr.org
15	UNICEF	Sheeba Harma Regional Gender Adviser	shharma@unicef.org
16	UN Women (Co-Chair)	Ekram El-Huni, Regional Programme Coordinator & Humanitarian Advisor	ekram.elhuni@unwomen.org
17		Jo-Anne Bishop, Regional Strategic Planning and Coordination Specialist	Jo-anne.bishop@unwomen.org
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24	Voice Amplified	Sharifa Abdul Aziz, GBViE Specialist	sharifa@voiceamplified.org