

MOLDOVA: GENDER TASK FORCE MEETING

Meeting Details	
Date	05 May 2023
Time	11:00 – 12:30
Venue	Zoom
Chair/ co-chair	Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women), Nina Lozinschi (Platform for Gender Equality)
Agenda	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updates Refugee Coordination Forum: Temporary Protection • Presentation of Gender and Diversity Assessment of Refugees from Ukraine in Moldova After One Year of Forced Displacement • Experience of National Association of Companies in IT Sector in provision of gender-sensitive livelihood opportunities to refugee women and women from the host community • Updates and AOB 	

Participants			
#	Name	Organization	Function
1	Nina Lozinschi	Platform for Gender Equality	Secretary General
2	Evghenia Hiora	UN Women	Gender in Humanitarian Action Coordination Officer
3	Ala Svet	UN Women	Project Officer Women Economic Empowerment
4	Galit Wolfensohn	UN Women	Gender in Humanitarian Action Consultant
5	Onyango Makogango	UN Women	Gender in Humanitarian Action Specialist
6	Tatiana Dormenco	UN Women	Programme Officer Women Economic Empowerment
7	Natalia Manea	UN Women	Programme Officer Women Economic Empowerment
8	Viorica Culeac	UN Women	Programme Officer Ending Violence Against Women
9	Sean Sager	UNHCR	Protection Officer

10	Fatima Al-Wahaidy	UNFPA	GBV Program Specialist
11	Violeta Terguta	UNFPA	
12	Celine Brixander	UNFPA	Information and Reporting Analyst for Humanitarian Response
13	Alina Busula	WFP	Gender Focal Point
14	Irene Quizon	WHO	PSEAH Technical Specialist
15	Octavian Bratosin	AO Institutum Virtutes Civilis	Capacity Building Program Coordinator
16	Valentina Toporet	AO „MOTIVAȚIE”	Associate
17	Margareta Cartira	AO Laolaltă	Communications Coordinator
18	Valentina Bodrug-Lungu	Gender-Centru	President
19	Irina Oriol	ATIC	Deputy Project Coordinator
20	Daniele Pedretti	Helpage	Humanitarian Programme Manager
21	Graziella Piga	Project HOPE	Gender Focal Point
22	Andrea Szenasi	REACH	Assessment Officer
23	Inna Grinco		
24	Elena Botul		Refugee Woman Leader from Soroca
25	Raisa Toncoglaz		Refugee Woman Leader from Soroca
26	Olga Dymova		Refugee Woman Local Coordinator in Balti
27	Elena Cernicova		

Summary of discussions and agreements/ action items

Agenda/Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nina Lozinschi (Platform for Gender Equality) welcomed participants and introduced the agenda of the meeting. 	
<p>Updates Refugee Coordination Forum: Temporary Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sean Sager (UNHCR) provided updates on the temporary protection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of 1st May, 2023 there are 3,198 individuals who have pre-enrolled to temporary protection. Out of these, 1,544 have been issued temporary protection documentation so far. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection WG to share Protection Monitoring Tool

- There is no data on the number denials or rejections, but UNHCR is capturing information through monitoring.
- Some implementation challenges are:
 - Many are waiting to see what will happen with extension of emergency laws, which are demotivating people to apply.
 - Proof of residence is still a big issue for many. For those residing in RACs, there has been some progress with individuals, but proof of residence is not done in a uniform way. When it comes to landlords unwilling to provide documentation for tax purposes and landlords living abroad, there is still a challenge.
 - Lack of information. UNHCR has supported the General Inspectorate for Migration (IGM) with information sessions and campaigns, but there is still a lack of information and clarity. This is primarily due to the fact that we do not have clarity on all issues, especially regarding healthcare and education.
- Mobile units have not been operating until recent weeks, but now applicants have the option to request mobile units to help with documentation.
- No decision has been made on how temporary protection is linked to cash assistance.
- Primary healthcare is now only available for holders of temporary protection, which for some is a big motivation to apply.
- The World Health Organization has reported that the Ministry of Health was planning to form a working group to address temporary protection and health issues. The first meeting will be held this month.
- A temporary protection monitoring tool has been developed, the pilot phase of this tool will be finalized this week and the tool will be shared with all organizations.
- **Evghenia Hiora (UN Women)** asked if the monitoring tool will collect information on the challenges people face when applying to temporary protection or the actual registration and number of temporary protections offered.
- **Sean Sager (UNHCR)** clarified that it is mostly related to obstacles in applying for temporary protection and applies to all individuals who are in the process of receiving the status. This included people who have gone through the pre-registration, those who have completed the process and the issues they have faced. The tool also tracks intentions to apply and why people may not intend to apply for temporary protection.
- **Graziella Piga (Project HOPE)** asked if there is a figure on how many people from Ukraine are in Moldova, and if there is any gender disaggregated data and geographical data on the people who have applied to Temporary Protection.
- **Sean Sager (UNHCR)** answered that they at the moment are not tracking location through the tool, but that this is something they may include in the future. They do collect disaggregated data and data on disability. Once the tool is shared to more partners, they are open for feedback so the data can be collected better.

For the numbers of Ukrainian, Sean shared the operational data portal and said that the most recent data is on there.

- **Nina Lozinschi** (Platform for Gender Equality) mentioned the health sector and that even if there is a limitation from the 1st of March, there are health issues that needs more complex measures and that people who have pre-registered for temporary protection are still able to benefit from medical services. It is very important that we promote temporary protection, so we do not have a situation where people do not have access to healthcare and children do not have access to education. Nina also agreed that it would be good to have geographical data to know where people are not applying and that they are aware of the issue with landlords not wanting to provide documentation for proof of residence, and that solutions are necessary. Nina asked if there are any solutions proposed for this problem.
- **Sean Sager** (UNHCR) answered that there is an ongoing discussion with IGM, and that the monitoring tool will be useful for advocacy. There has been progress made in RACs, but it remains a big challenge in the host communities.
- **Octavian Bratosin** (IVC) shared that in some districts residents of smaller towns did not receive the same amount of assistance as the ones in district centres. Residents in small communities are moving to district centres to be closer to the social assistance. This is a problem not only from refugees but also for local communities. This is particularly a problem in Stefan Voda and Causeni.
- **Sean Sager** (UNHCR) asked if Octavian has heard about refugees moving specifically due to the problem with receiving proof of residence or if it is related to access to services.
- **Octavian Bratosin** (IVC) shared that a year after the war started, people are coming to receive assistance for the first time because they have used up their resources. They are not included in any refugee database and probably there are probably more people like this, who did not need help initially but who will now need help for food, medical attention etc.
- **Sean Sager** (UNHCR) shared that within the protection sector, they are trying to map the mobile protection units to better understand where the services are and where there are gaps.
- **Graziella Piga** (Project HOPE) asked if there is any mapping of the ethnic minorities in relation to applying to temporary protection, especially with the Roma community as they have been marginalised and if they do not apply, this will have important implications on education. Graziella shared that they have an NGO partner, the Moldova Project, that have medical mobile units that go to different villages, and this can be a good opportunity to disseminate information. They also work in a RAC with Roma people.
- **Sean** confirmed that the TP Monitoring Tools collects information on nationality. Regarding information to the Roma community, they have sessions with Roma mediators on temporary protection, to make sure information gets shared in a way that the Roma community understands.

<p>Presentation of Gender and Diversity Assessment of Refugees from Ukraine in Moldova After One Year of Forced Displacement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Galit Wolfensohn (UN Women) presented a report commissioned by the end of last year to look at gender and diversity issues of refugees in Ukraine and Moldova a year after forced displacement and opened the floor for questions. • Nina Lozinschi (Platform for Gender Equality) asked for clarification on men accessing MHPSS services. • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) clarified that the majority of the MHPSS professionals are women and oftentimes men are uncomfortable with talking about their problems with women. • Fatima Al-Wahaidy (UNFPA) commented that understanding the access of health services is very timely for the GBV sub-working group, as they are working on developing the tools and concept notes for mapping of GBV services, looking into capacities and compositions of the teams, challenges in accessing of services. This would include working with service providers and refugees and local communities benefitting from these services. They will reach out to the Gender Task Force for feedback on this mapping for recommendations based on the assessments. • Nina Lozinschi (Platform for Gender Equality) commented on the recommendations to conduct research on the opportunities of employment, and to extend this to opportunities to launching a business. The Moldovan labour market is not very attractive for Ukrainians, but many may be interested in launching a business, and it would be great conduct research on what opportunities there are for this. • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) shared that UNHCR and UNDP committed to do an in-depth analysis on the socio-economic profile and employment opportunities for refugees and host communities, which will provide information on the demographic profile, skill levels and challenges to employment. The draft research questions suggest that the study will have a gender dimension, allowing to see distinct challenges for different vulnerable groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GBV SWG to share with the GTF tools and concept notes for mapping of GBV services for feedback and recommendations
<p>Experience of National Association of Companies in IT Sector in provision of gender-sensitive livelihood opportunities to refugee women and women from the host community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Irina Oriol (ATIC) presented the project “Building livelihood opportunities for local and Ukrainian women in Moldova” meant to provide increased access to livelihood opportunities, required access, skills, and partnerships in Moldova for Ukrainian women refugees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Directions of intervention: (1) Livelihood support to refugee women and girl survivors of GBV and those at-risk, through mapping of regions, cash-for-work intervention and subsidies to women to support childcare solutions, (2) provision of three livelihood services, through career orientation, training in tech-related areas, and providing internship and job opportunities, and (3) building partnership and opportunities through networking events with participation of multi-sectoral experts to identify solutions for integration of women refugees and survivors of GBV sand those at risk, meetups with private sector and trainings for academia and relevant stakeholders. ▪ Women who applied to the “Women in Online Work” programme reported barriers to their 	

<p>personal and professional development. Out of 602 persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 52,2% (314) reported no barriers • 13,1% (79) reported being a single mother, • 12% (72) reported being from a socially vulnerable families with low income, • 9,8% (59) reported being pregnant or having a newborn child, • 4% (24) reported being exposed to GBV. Many women also are not aware that they are being violated and what GBV is. In the project’s mentorship program, there will also be an information session of the participants on the risk they might be exposed to and what to do if they are exposed to GBV. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mothers who applied for children support programs and those who benefit from cash-for-work will be encouraged to answer a survey. • Expected results of the project include 1,165 beneficiaries, out of which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women of 5 regions have access to livelihood opportunities • 400 vulnerable women (refugees, girls-survivors of GBV and those at risk) from 5 regins received support in preparation for their employment • 140 women receive cash-for-work support • 250 women receive subsidies for childcare support • 75 participants from 3 universities actively involved in supporting women refugees • 300 participants in local women’s communities and Tech Women Summit • Nina Lozinschi (Platform for Gender Equality) thanked Irina for her presentation and highlighted the importance of childcare support. • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) agreed with Nina and highlighted the importance of including women form rural areas, as they have less information and access to livelihood opportunities. Evghenia also underscored that the project is a good example of a gender-sensitive intervention on inclusion of livelihood since it selects beneficiaries based on vulnerability, consults them, provides assistance tailored to the needs, embeds GBV awareness and prevention, partners with a refugee-led organization, and envisages to assess resilience capacity levels in women before and after the interventions. 	
<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thanked everyone who provided comments for the GTF annual work plan and annual report and informed that they are now considered approved. • Informed that the GTF worked on awareness raising and capacity building on gender in humanitarian action in from January to March with up to 50 people informed another 50 trained. The next training session is planed for June and July, and information will be circulated. If any gender expert wish to support in the process, please reach out to Nina or Evghenia. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share GTF annual report with the members • Share information on the upcoming GiHA capacity building • GTF members with

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mentioned that there are some assessments going on, the biggest ones are a multisectoral needs assessment, socio economic profile of refugees, rental market assessment, area-based assessments and others. On this occasion, members of GTF are invited to support with reviewing questionnaires and methodology, to ensure that these assessments have a gender lens. • Shared a reminder of a webinar on resource mobilization. • Informed that the next GTF meeting is tentatively planned for 9 June 2023. • Nina Lozinschi (Platform for Gender Equality) thanked the participants of the meeting and welcomed any feedback on the meeting to be sent via email. 	<p>gender expertise willing to support GiHA capacity building or gender mainstreaming into sector assessments to reach out to Evghenia or Nina</p>
<p>Material shared</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TP Monitoring Tool • Liminal lives: Gender and diversity assessment of refugees from Ukraine in Moldova after one year of forced displacement • Presentation of Liminal Lives (attached to email) • Presentation of “Building livelihood opportunities for local and Ukrainian women in Moldova” project (attached to email) 	