

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Sub-Working Group Moldova

Meeting Details					
Date	27 October 2023				
Time	2:00 pm – 3:30 p.m.				
Chair	Vanessa Bordin - GBV Officer, UNHCR Jana Nagnitschenko - GBV and Youth in Emergency Programme Coordinator, UNFPA				
Reporting	UNHCR				
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Agenda					
➤	Training updates				
➤	Presentation by UNFPA on bodyright campaign				
➤	Presentation by Feminismd on work with adolescents and GBV prevention and risk mitigation				
➤	Updates				
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INTERSOS on GBV risks at the Palanca Bus Hub • Temporary Protection, RACs consolidation and unaccredited RACs • 16 Days of Activism Against GBV 2023 • MSNA GBV findings and next steps of 2024 Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 				
➤	Updates by members				
Information collection and relevant links					
Link to the GBV SWG google drive: https://drive.google.com/drive/u/2/folders/1sEn_M8X-OG1Nzy9-KLIDzvS4tMkwulOu					
Link to the GBV SWG on the UNHCR data portal: https://data.unhcr.org/en/working-group/337?sv=0&geo=680					
Participants					
1.	Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR	9.	Sean Sager, UNHCR	17.	Rebecca Oswago, MDM
2.	Jana Nagnitschenko, UNFPA	10.	Ines Arnautovic - DRC Moldova	18.	Azat Doskozhaev, ICRC
3.	Petru Lupu, UNHCR	11.	Milena Rusu, Feminismd	19.	Aliona Onofrei, HIAS Moldova
4.	Ene Tulyliyeva, UNFPA	12.	Valentina Bodrug-Lungu, Gender Centru	20.	Valentina Bordian, UNICEF
5.	Iva Bucatciuc, DRC Moldova	13.	Olga Chisca, OSCE	21.	Onofrei Aliona, HIAS
6.	Olesea Simion, UN Women	14.	Svetlana Albina, UN Women	22.	Dilnoza Niculescu, Caritas Moldova
7.	Alina Babacae, INTERSOS	15.	Gheorghe Timoftica, Casa Marioarei	23.	Ina Rusu, ADRA
8.	Svetlana Olari, CDA	16.	Elena Castravet, IOM		

Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda Item	Discussion	Agreements/Actions
GBV SWG 2023 trainings	<p>Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1 December on GBV and Health (in collaboration with WHO), in Chisinau: the training will cover a general overview of health and GBV, the minimum standards for health in GBV response and the clinical management of rape. ○ 4 December on GBV and MHPSS (in collaboration with WHO), in Comrat: focus will be on MHPSS as an essential component of GBV, on the links between a survivor-centred approach and MHPSS, as well as on PFA. ○ 6 December on GBV Core Concepts and Principles, in Balti: basic concepts around the work with GBV, including principles and how to apply them in practice; how to implement a survivor-centred approach and to safely handle and refer disclosures of GBV to services. 	<p>GBV SWG to circulate brief notes with information on trainings</p>
Presentation by UNFPA on bodyright campaign	<p>Ene Tuyliyeva, UNFPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ According to the Economist Intelligence Unit, 85% of women reported witnessing online violence and nearly 40% have experienced it. Women and girls, minorities and the marginalized are most likely to have images abused online, subjected to slurs and demeaning non-consensual sexual acts. ○ Based on this, UNFPA launched the bodyright campaign in 202. The aim is to create awareness and push digital companies, social platforms, online forums and content-sharing sites to take the abusive use of female bodies as seriously as copyright infringements. ○ The bodyright as the letter 'B' as its symbol, which can be added to photos on social media as a sign of support. ○ In Moldova, it will be launched on the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV. It will last from November 2023 through March 2024 with the support of Council of Europe, the Government and Parliament of Moldova, La Strada and the Women's Law Center. The target groups of the campaign are women and girls, young people aged 15-24 as well as decision-makers. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some of the campaign activities include partnership with influencers, a music dedicated to addressing online violence, performed by Dara, outreach events, public dialogs and the social media campaign. 	
<p>Update by INTERSOS o GBV issues at the border</p>	<p>Alina Babacaev, INTERSOS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ General updates from Palanca Bus Hub: in September, not many refugees crossed the border through Palanca Bus Hub. Most people went to Romania and some of them remained in Moldova. ○ Among the refugees who arrived in September, vulnerable and at-risk cases were identified, including single women travelling alone with several children, adults with medical condition, older people and people with disabilities. ○ There was one case abuse against an old and disable man by his landlord. ○ Protection risks associated with shared living spaces and renting accommodation in general were observed. For instance, women who have children face more difficulties finding a place to rent due to the prices. One woman reported uncertainty about her future and decided to start a romantic cohabitation with her landlord, a Moldovan man, as a coping mechanism. ○ MHPSS services will continue to be provided for all refugees in need. 	
<p>Updates on Temporary Protection, Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) consolidation and Unaccredited RACs</p>	<p>Sean Sager, UNHCR:</p> <p><u>Temporary Protection</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On 23 October, 1,330 people were registered in the asylum system, including 203 refugees, 345 beneficiaries of humanitarian protection and 782 asylum seekers. ○ Between 1 March and 23 October, 26,815 people pre-registered for Temporary Protection (TP); 20,498 identity documents of Temporary Protection beneficiaries were issued, of which 6,588 identity documents were issued to children. ○ The General Inspector for Migration (IGM) and the Government have been clear from the beginning that they will not penalise anyone who has not applied for TP; the people who will apply for TP after 90 days of stay will not be fined. <p><u>Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) Consolidation Strategy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ MLSP's strategy to close around 20 RACs in Moldova is underway. At the moment there are 4 RACs out of the 4 groups that were closed, including Hotel 	

	<p>Zarea in Chisinau, Dumbrava Alba in Balti, one RAC in Nisporeni and one in Anenii Noi. The focus now is on Hotel Zarea and Dumbrava Alba, the last one is a problematic accomodation center.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Visits to RACs in Group D and E are currently on hold until further notice. Next steps for now include carrying out regular meetings with the Relocation Technical Group, continue implementing the information campaign in coordination with AAP Task Force and the monitoring exercise. <p><u>Unaccredited RACs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Two months ago, the Basic Need WG and the Protection WG identified 15 unaccredited RACs throughout Moldova. Together with a legal partner, a protection partner and accommodation partner, the process started as a monitoring exercise that included visiting RACs, meeting and speaking with refugees and managers and sharing information about TP. Up to now, the group visited 10 RACs and spoke with 166 individuals, including 68 women, 10 men, 1 person with disabilities and 33 children. 	
<p>16 days of Activism Against GBV</p>	<p>Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The campaign starts on 25 November and ends on 10 December and is meant to raise awareness around GBV; it's an opportunity for actors to coordinate to conduct activities on GBV. ○ The GBV SWG has the accountability of organizing and coordinating with its partners to conduct activities. A matrix was circulated last week for organizations to include activities, which are expected to take place in several locations in Moldova. ○ UNHCR's community centres around the country are open to host activities and we organizations are encouraged to use those spaces in Chisinau, Causeni, Comrat, Cahul, Orhei, Donduseni, Ungheni and Balti. ○ UNHCR and partners will conduct creative activities, painting classes, storytelling, movie making, photography and others. We encourage everyone to be creative. <p>Olesea Simion, UN Women:</p>	<p>Organizations interested in conducting activities at UNHCR's community centres can reach out for coordination.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The theme of this year UNiTE campaign is to invest to prevent violence against women and girls, it calls on decision makers and policy makers to invest in strategies for preventing GBV. ○ The UNiTE campaign launched in 2008 and aimed to raise public awareness and increase political will and resources for preventing and ending all forms of violence against women and girls in all parts of the world. ○ In Moldova, during the 16 Days, several events will focus on these issues. Some of the activities planned include dialogues with private sector, launch of the campaign, digital art exhibition, event with Roma community, events with youth and academia, and others. ○ The official hashtag of the campaign is #noexcuse based on the fact that violence against women and girls is one of the most prevalent and pervasive human rights violations. There are no excuses not to act to end it. ○ On 30 October, we will share social media assets, and on 1 November we will launch the Digital Kit. On 9 and 10 November, there is the launch of the UN joint calendar of 16 Days events, and on 23 of November the campaign will start. 	
<p>Multi-sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) GBV findings and next steps of 2024 Refugees Response Plan (RRP)</p>	<p>Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some of the findings of the Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA) which was conducted in 2023 to inform the 2024 Refugees Response Plan (RRP), one of the questions that was included was to understand potential barrier access to services. ○ The GBV sub-sector included a question about what respondents believe are the reasons why people would not seek services in case they experience a GBV incident, and 55% indicated that it would be fear of retaliation, followed by shame (49%), lack of awareness about services (17%) and lack of trust in service providers (12%). At the same time, 22.3% of persons did not know where to seek psychosocial services, 17% did not know about the hotlines available and 15.6% were not aware of legal assistance available. <p>Jana Nagnitschenko, UNFPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On 4 October, the sector consultations took place with the participation GBV sub-sector partners. The RRP planning figure is 90,000 refugees and 55,000 host community members. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Persons in Need (PiN) number for the GBV Sub-Sector is 80% for of women and girls above 15 years old, reflecting a total of 43,050 refugees and 23,600 host community members targeted by the GBV sub-sector in 2024. ○ Following the RCF sector consultations, each sector has developed a framework with sector objectives, prioritized activities and indicators. ○ The GBV sub-sector objectives are five: 1) GBV prevention, 2) GBV advocacy and policy development, 3) GBV response, 4) capacity building and 5) safety audits and assessments. ○ Partners submitted their activities on 18 October. ○ As a next step, sector leads will check for duplication of activities and targets to ensure coordination amongst partners. In the next weeks, sector leads will reach out to partners to request further clarification and adjustments, if necessary. 	
<p>Feminismd on work with adolescents on GBV prevention</p>	<p>Milena Rusu, Feminismd:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Feminismd is a group led by young women with the aim of promoting gender equality in Moldova. In partnership with UNICEF, 12 trainings were carried out recently for young women in rural areas with four women mentors that were instructed on peer-to-peer program over 2022 and 2023, and were selected from a large group and reached. The mentors reached approximately 300 young people. 10 sessions are still to be carried out. The trainings are done mostly in the north region where the team is based, but also depend on the requests/proposals from schools. ○ The training topics include feminism (brief introduction on the importance of feminism and what it means), GBV (discussion on types of GBV, what is consent and healthy relationships), sexism (unpacking gender stereotypes, gender roles and how it relates to intersectionality) and resources (information about useful websites and organizations, as well as where to go to receive help). Before each training there is a quick survey that includes gender equality education in schools, gender inequality and safety in schools. ○ The organization has done trainings in the past in the Transnistrian region and is thinking on expanding the program to include Transnistria as well. ○ Some of the schools are not so open to collaborate, but the majority of schools are offering the time and support for the training. There are some schools that invite the organization to come back with the trainings on the topic. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In the team of the organization there are no men staff, especially as there is a low interest from young men. 	
<p>Updates by members</p>	<p>Svetlana Albina, UN Women:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ UN Women withing the humanitarian project that is funded by the US Government and is ongoing during this year, has supported three women-led organizations (WLOs) from Soroca (north), Mascauti (centre) and Cahul (south) to establish three multi-purpose centres for women survivors of GBV and women at risk, both refugees and host community. ○ The GBV services available at the multi-purpose centres including social assistance, legal and psychological counselling, economic empowerment and also social inclusion activities for refugees. ○ In November the NGO Ophelia will open it's newly established centre. ○ Within the project UN Women is focused on service provision that includes legal counselling, social assistance, psychological counselling, medical assistance including the coverage of the cost of medicines. This service provision is done in partnership with Youth Resource Centre Dacia, RCTV Memoria and Adolex. At the end of September they reached 3000 beneficiaries (refugees and host community members). ○ The final results of the project will be provided on next meeting as the project is ending in December. 	<p>UN Women to update in the next meeting with more details about the project.</p>