

MOLDOVA: GENDER TASK FORCE MEETING

Meeting Details	
Date	23 February 2024
Time	11:00 – 12:30
Venue	Zoom
Chair/ co-chair	Evghenia Hiora (UN Women), Nina Lozinschi (Platform for Gender Equality)
Agenda	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11.00 - 11.10: Welcome and agenda • 11.10 – 11.20: Presentation of results for 2023 • 11.20 – 11.50: Review of draft GTF Annual Work Plan 2024 • 11.50 – 12.00: Voices from the ground on specific issues of women, men, girls and boys • 12.20 – 12.30: Findings of the regional survey on funding for WOs • 12.30 – 12.40: Updates from members and AOB 	

Participants			
#	Name	Organization	Function
1	Nina Lozinschi	Platform for Gender Equality	Secretary
2	Evghenia Hiora	UN Women	Gender in Humanitarian Action Coordination Officer
3	Anatolii Oprea	UNICEF	Consultant
4	Veronica Lupu	Asociația Femeia pentru Societatea Contemporană	Președinta
5	Sabine Ebner	UN Women	Program Analyst
6	Renata Gradinaru	Afina	Executive director
7	Mariuta Mariana-Victoria	Youth One World	Project Assistant

8	Daniele Pedretti	Help Age	Inclusion specialist
9	Fede Bagolin	WeWorld	Gender and Protection Project Manager
10	Natalia Belciug	AFINA	
11	Aliona Manciu	Baştină Frăsinești	Administrator
12	Valentina Bodrug-Lungu	Gender Centru	President
13	Olga Patlati		
14	Ines Arnautovic	DRC	Protection Advisor
15	Rebecca Acin Rivera	UN Women Regional Office	Humanitarian Specialist
16	Marina Turcanu	WFP	CBT Associate
17	Olha Florynska	OHCHR	Information Management Officer
18	Simona Gaidei	WFP	
19	Pancho Valchanov		

Summary of discussions and agreements/ action items

Agenda/Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p>Welcome and agenda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) welcomed participants and introduced the agenda of the meeting with the focus on the planning for 2024 and on grassroots perspectives for the specific needs for women and men, girls and boys. Evghenia also gave a brief presentation of the task force for new members and shared the Operational Data Portal with all GTF resources. 	
<p>Presentation of results for 2023</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sabine Ebner (UN Women) launched a survey for participants to share reflections and outlooks for the task force. On what went well in 2023, participants answered trainings, dissemination of info, communication, collaboration and coordination. • Nina Lozinschi (Platform for Gender Equality) presented the results of the task force for 2023. In 2023, there were 3 main objectives to achieve. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For objective (1) increased coordination on gender in humanitarian action, which had good results. One planning and six regular meetings were held, and 16 civil society organizations (CSOs) and 4 refugee women participated in meetings, and collaboration and information sharing with Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF) were done. ▪ For objective (2) increased technical support and capacity building for relevant stakeholders on gender in humanitarian action, technical support was provided successfully across sectors, and capacity 	<p>GTF members to provide feedback to GTF Annual Report by 27 February</p> <p>GTF to share finalized GTF annual report by 1 March</p>

<p>building activities were conducted with key stakeholders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ For objective (3) increased advocacy, communication and knowledge building on gender in humanitarian action, 3 knowledge products were produced, regular advocacy for the collection and use of SADDD was done, and a mapping of local CSOs in the refugee response was produced. For this goal, the task force also shared lessons learned and good practices on gender-responsive programming, and engaged with donors, mainly Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund, for funding of women’s organizations. • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) informed the members that the annual report was shared earlier in the week and that members are invited to provide their feedback by the following Tuesday. 	
<p>Review of draft GTF Annual Work Plan 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sabine Ebner (UN Women) continued the survey by asking what the task force can do better in 2024. Some answers were more community engagement, visibility, presentation of results and more presentations of women led organizations. • Fede Bagolin (WeWorld) suggested for the task force to engage more with Roma women organizations to have a deeper understanding of Roma issues and inform the tools we have to also work for Roma. • Sabine Ebner (UN Women) continued with the third question about what the priorities of the task force should be for 2024, considering the shrinkage of funding to the humanitarian response. Some answers are advocacy, knowledge building, GBV prevention, and localization. • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) presented the annual work plan for 2024 and informed the members that they will have the opportunity to provide input by 27 February. Evghenia also invited members to nominate themselves to provide gender expertise support to activities under the workplan that will focus on the same three areas of intervention as 2023, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (1) coordination, where activities will focus on regular coordination meetings, consultations with women-led organizations, strengthen inclusion and participation of women-led organizations, women’s rights organizations and refugee women, coordination and collaboration with the RCF and sectors, and regular information sharing. ▪ (2) technical support and capacity building, with activities on demand-driven technical support, capacity building with key stakeholders and disseminating gender equality tools and processes. ▪ (3) evidence-based advocacy, with activities on regular collection, analysis and use of sex, age and disability disaggregated data and intersectional gender analysis, production and dissemination of analytical gender briefs, gender assessments, research and/or gender accountability framework report, developing advocacy products/key messages for gender-responsive refugee response, and continuing the engagement with donors. • Daniele Pedretti (HelpAge) informed that the Disability Task Force organized trainings on SADD last year and invited the GTF to consider joint trainings on SADDD in 2024. He also mentioned that he participates in other working groups and is willing to raise issues and report between the different groups, and invited 	<p>GTF members to provide feedback to GTF Annual Work Plan by 27 February</p> <p>GTF to consider more engagement with Roma organizations</p> <p>GTF to consider joint trainings on SADDD with Disability and Age TF</p> <p>Upon need members to share with Evghenia and Nina information to be send out through the GTF network</p> <p>GTF to share finalized TOR and AWP by 1 March</p>

<p>others to do the same.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) agreed that this is a very good approach, and that if there are more people speaking about these issues, we have a better chance to be successful. • Sabine Ebner (UN Women) also suggested that members who wish to share information through the TF can reach out to Evghenia or Nina. 	
<p>Voices from the ground on specific issues of women, men, girls and boys</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natalia Belciug (CSO Afina) communicated the specific needs they observed among their beneficiaries as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Children: access to quality education, to be able to interact socially, psychological support, speech therapist support. Challenges are to adjust to the Moldovan context and culture, integrate to new school environment. ▪ Women and girls: psychological support, learning and socializing opportunities, learning opportunities to develop job skills, information on rights in relation to gender-based violence. Challenges are linguistic barriers, limited funds to cover medication and overall livelihood. ▪ Men and boys: finding jobs, finding good accommodation, psychological support. ▪ Older women: psychological support, community spaces to socialize. There are barriers in accessing health care services. Challenges include chronic diseases needing regular check ups, adjusting to culture and build new social relations. ▪ Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) asked Natalia if there are any problems regarding temporary protection (TP) or issues related to the closure of refugee accommodation centers in the north. ▪ Natalia Belciug (CSO Afina) informed that the majority of refugees they encounter are already integrated in the society, with a job that enables them to rent an apartment and pay for utilities. They plan to continue living in Moldova. ▪ Renata Gradinaru (CSO Afina) mentioned that many refugees are stressed since March 1st is the deadline for temporary protection. Some are well informed, some believe it will be prolonged automatically and some are scared. It is important to give informational support and make sure the refugees who don't have access to reliable information sources are not worried. Renata also shared that there was an incident where a refugee girl who lived in a RAC in Balti died due to a heart attack and her mother needs financial support to hold a funeral in Ukraine. Local organizations don't have the money to assist. ▪ Veronica Lupu (CSO Asociația Femeia pentru Societatea Contemporană) stressed that when TP gets prolonged, it needs to be widely socialized with legal provisions explained as soon as possible. ▪ Daniele Pedretti (HelpAge) with regards to the case of refugee girl mentioned that HelpAge has a budget for funeral arrangements for older people. He will discuss with colleagues and see if there are any funds to support. Regarding TP, Daniele suggested to do advocacy to expand the rights of the TP 	<p>Daniele Perdetti (HelpAge) to see if there is budget to support funeral of the passed away refugee girl</p> <p>GTF to consider joint advocacy with Disability and Age on access of refugees to secondary health</p> <p>GTF to reach out to CDA to see if they are able to provide legal support to the case of deceased person in Balti</p> <p>GTF to re-share information on extension of TP as soon as it becomes available</p>

<p>holders. Main issue that refugees don't have access to secondary health, and maybe the task force can do some advocacy with the ministry.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nina Lozinschi (Platform for Gender Equality) agreed with the issue of health care for TP holders and that advocacy is needed. ▪ Renata Gradinaru (CSO Afina) mentioned that in case of deceased persons, there is need to communicate with the embassies and to provide legal support for the affected persons. • Aliona Manciu (CSO Baștină Frăsinești) informed members that a RAC in Ungheni will be closed, and that the challenges of the refugees are to find accommodation and to sign renting contracts. In 2023, they organized a lot of cohesion activities and this needs to be continued in 2024. Parents of children who started school feel the need for them to learn English and Romanian and go to summer camps to support integration. Male refugees are usually older and in need of social services. Women refugees need training opportunities to find a job. Women refugees with children need flexible work arrangements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) asked if there were any specific, different needs among boys and girls. ▪ Aliona Manciu (CSO Baștină Frăsinești) answered that they need recreational activities and engagement. Adolescents are not very open to get integrated and their mothers wish for them to have summer camps. ▪ Daniele Pedretti (HelpAge) asked if refugees accepted cash for rent in Ungheni and Balti since the RACs have closed. ▪ Renata Gradinaru (CSO AFINA) said that in Balti they have accepted but she is unsure how many, also since the RAC in Hotel Balti is not closed yet. ▪ Aliona Manciu (CSO Baștină Frăsinești) shared that refugees are not well informed about the legal and financial support that is being provided, and many women don't have the possibility to integrate their children into education to go to work. They are trying to provide trainings with official diplomas that helps them get jobs, since many refugees plan to stay here in the long term. 	
<p>Findings of the regional survey on funding for WOs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rebecca Acin Rivera (UN Women) presented the urgent funding needs and challenges of Local Organizations Working on Gender Equality to be used for advocacy purposes with the following key highlights: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Many organizations have seen a continuation or increase in their programming for refugees from Ukraine between 2022 and 2023 in the context of the Ukraine Humanitarian and Refugee Response in 2023, in 2024 the funding gap has increased dramatically. Based on the information provided by 52 of the organizations surveyed in the region the reported gap in the funding required for 2024 would reach at least 15 million USD. ▪ Most organizations continue to rely on short- and mid-term project-based funding. ▪ Barriers to funding access include lack of funding opportunities, inflexible funding, complex application procedures, language barriers, and mismatches between donor priorities and organizations' needs. 	<p>GTF to re-share info on UNHCR training on RRP as a fund-raising tool as it becomes available</p> <p>GTF to consider a possibility of co-organizing with UNHCR of a brief meeting with donors</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) thanked Regional Office for efforts in showcasing the gap of funding for women organizations across the region and informed that UN Women Moldova continues to advocate for funding for WOs with Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund in 2024. Evghenia also informed that UNHCR plans to organize a training on RRP as a fund-rising tool for CSOs with additional information to be shared in due time. • Rebecca Acin Rivera (UN Women) suggested to explore a possibility of co-organizing with UNHCR of a brief meeting with donors to advocate for funds for gender equality. 	<p>to advocate for funds for gender equality</p>
<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) invited members to provide updates from their side and informed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) has updated Policy on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women in January 2024. The updated policy focuses on gender equality and intersectionality as central to inclusive and accountable humanitarian programming. For the first time the policy uses specific language on the roles and responsibilities of GTF/GiHA Working Groups and how they fit into the humanitarian architecture and highlights the importance of inclusion of local women’s voices in the planning and implementation of the humanitarian response plans. The policy will be shared with the members for their information and perusal. • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) announced the change of frequency of meetings – from now on the meetings will take place once in 3 months with an average duration of 2 hours. Ad hoc meetings will be organized as necessary. Next meeting is tentatively planned for 24 May. • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) summarized the meeting action points. 	<p>GTF to share Inter-Agency Standing Committee updated policy on Gender Equality in Humanitarian Action by 1 March</p>
<p>Material shared</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational Data Portal: Gender Task Force • GTF meeting poll • GTF Terms of Reference • GTF Annual Work Plan • GTF Annual Report • Regional Brief “Urgent Funding Needs and Challenges of Local Organizations Working on Gender Equality” • 2024 IASC Reference Group on Gender and Humanitarian Action (January 2024) 	