

Gender-Based Violence Sub-Working Group Moldova

Meeting Details		
Date	6 September 2024	
Time	2:00 - 3:30 pm	
Co-chairs and contact emails	Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR - bordin@unhcr.org Jana Nagnitschenko, UNFPA - nagnitschenko@unfpa.org	
Reporting	UNHCR	
Agenda		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction of members 2. Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2025-2026 planning process: GBV Sub-Sector 3. GBV risk mitigation and GBV Safety Walk training package 4. Livelihoods and GBV risk mitigation resources 5. Update on Refugee Accommodation Centres (RAC) Consolidation Process 6. Updates from partners 		
Information collection and relevant links		
<p>GBV SWG Google Drive Moldova: Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Sub-Sector Working Group Data Portal UNHCR GBV Safe Disclosure Package GBV SWG September 2024 presentations</p>		
Participants		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR 2. Jana Nagnitschenko, UNFPA 3. Arefu Araki, UNHCR 4. Ana Rimbu, Casa Marioarei 5. Andrei Pavlenco, Women's Initiatives 6. Aliona Onofrei, HIAS Moldova 7. Anna Celac, Plan International 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Adriana Procopciuc, HEKS/EPER Moldova 9. Casey O'Neil, Church World Services (CWS) 10. Cristina Catarev, General Inspectorate for Migration 11. Corina Organ, Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC) 12. Fede Bagolin, WeWorld 13. Flore Rossi, UNICEF 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Ina Rusu, ADRA 15. Ines Arnautov, DRC Moldova 16. Inga Stegarescu, Gender Equality Platform 17. Lilian Severin, UNAIDS 18. Mariia Korolchuk, HIAS Romania 19. Milena Selivanov, WHO 20. Natalia Plugaru, UNFPA 21. Sergiu Zumbo, IOM 22. Viorica Culeac, UN Women

Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda Item	Discussion	Agreements/Actions
<p>Refugee Response Plan (RRP) 2025-2026 planning process: GBV Sub-sector</p> <p>Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR Jana Nagnitschenko, UNFPA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Refugee Response Plan (RRP) will cover the years of 2025-2026. • Consultations with Local Coordination Forums were conducted in Balti, Cahul, Causeni, Comrat, Otaci, Tiraspol and Ungheni, and discussions on Social Protection, Education, Health, Nutrition and Livelihoods and Employment in order to inform pressing needs, challenges and interventions to address issues, took place. • A Planning Workshop on the Theory of Change (ToC) and Strategic Priorities was organized in July. The ToC is being developed and will inform the RRP planning process. • The Inter-Sectoral Coordination Group (ISCG) met in August, when the 2025-2026 RRP planning templates was presented to sector leads. • The 2025-2026 RRP Planning template includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sector Response Strategy Overview ▪ Planning figures ▪ Current needs ▪ Outcome Statement with specific changes/impact to be achieved ▪ Sectoral objectives ▪ Activities and indicators ▪ Refugee Inclusion in National Systems and Services, with current status and steps for achieving equal access ▪ Main advocacy points for government, donors, partners ▪ Coordination and transition roadmap, outlining current coordination structure, transition plan and key steps. 	<p>Follow up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-leads to share the activities and indicators with sub-sector partners for their inputs and comments. • Co-leads to update sector partners as the process evolves. • Co-leads to organize consultation workshop of sub-sector (perhaps to be done with Protection WG), and inform sub-sector partners.

- **There are four strategic objectives drafted at the regional level for the 2025-2026 RRP, and these should guide the planning process of all country-level RRP. The Strategic Objectives encompass:**
 - **Strategic Objective 1:** Support host countries to ensure that refugees have effective access to legal status, protection, and rights, including through a harmonized approach beyond Temporary Protection (TP) arrangements, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups and including age and gender considerations.
 - **Strategic Objective 2:** Support host countries in their efforts to include refugees in national systems – decent work, social protection, health, education, child protection services – with a particular focus on outreach and inclusion of vulnerable groups and including age, gender and disability considerations.
 - **Strategic Objective 3:** Strengthen social cohesion and peaceful coexistence between refugee communities and their hosts.
 - **Strategic Objective 4:** Advance the localization of the response, by supporting national and local civil society, municipalities and local authorities, as well as coordination structures, sharing and building capacities and supporting sustainable programming.
 - **Cross-cutting considerations that should be considered for all four objectives:**
 - **Government ownership:** ensure line ministries and local governments are equipped to carry out their responsibilities.
 - **Sustainability:** inclusion in national systems.
 - **One-refugee approach** to encompass refugees fleeing other conflicts and situations.
 - **Accountability to Affected People:** It is critical that refugees have the opportunity to express their views and thoughts throughout the entire process, not just after a program has been completed. Systematic inclusion of their feedback

	<p>should start from the beginning of program design and continue throughout implementation. This approach ensures a two-way communication channel where their perspectives are actively sought and incorporated into program development and execution.”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Age, Gender and Diversity (AGD) - Recognizing that the needs of individuals can vary significantly based on factors such as gender, age, disability, and sexual orientation, it is crucial to tailor our response accordingly. Services must be designed to address these differences effectively—whether the individual is a man, woman, adolescent, older person, person with a disability, or a member of the LGBTQI community. Additionally, the data collected should reflect these diverse needs, including considerations of age, gender, and other relevant factors. Working closely with women-led organizations and national civil society groups is very important, as they are integral to the localization mechanism and can provide crucial insights and support tailored to specific community needs. - Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA) - It is crucial for us as humanitarian workers to ensure that we prevent sexual exploitation and abuse. If such incidents occur, those responsible will be held accountable, and survivors will be referred to appropriate services through the GBV Referral Pathways. If the survivor is a child, the Child Protection Referral Pathways will be used. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population Planning Figures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 2025: 100,500 ▪ 2026: 90,000 • Process’ next steps 	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 20 September: submission of planning template with activities and indicators. GBV sub-sector to reduce/group indicators. Sector leads will share suggested activities and indicators with partners for their inputs and comments. ▪ 27 September: submission of full planning template, to be drafted by sector leads in consultation with sector partners. ▪ 30 September: finalize ToC narrative. ▪ 4 – 14 October: project submission. ▪ 21 October – 21 November: detailed planning. ▪ November – December: RRP Country Chapter. ▪ January 2025: RRP/Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP) Launch. 	
<p>GBV risk mitigation and GBV Safety Walk training package</p> <p>Jana Nagnitschenko, UNFPA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GBV risk mitigation comprises a range of activities within humanitarian response that aim to first identify GBV risks and take specific actions to reduce those risks. • In 2024, the GBV Sub-Working Group conducted two GBV risk mitigation and two Safety Walk workshops. • The context of Moldova shows the need to continue conducting safety walks to reduce and mitigate GBV risks. • Training package for the GBV Safety Walk workshop was based on UNHCR’s Global GBV Safety Audit tool, with contextual information from the 2022 and 2023 GBV Safety Audits. • Training package localized for Moldova includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Power point presentation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is GBV Risk Mitigation - Intersectionality and GBV risks - Concepts around the GBV Safety Walk - How to and steps to conduct a GBV Safety Walk - Explanation of the elements to be included in the checklist of the safety walk (lighting, sightlines, privacy etc.) ▪ Handouts with practical exercises 	<p>Follow up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To share the packages with the GBV Sub-Working Group and upload them at UNHCR’s Data Portal.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How to identify GBV Risks - How to conduct a GBV Safety Walk, which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Questions for participants to learn all the steps of the exercise, including preparation, note-taking, observation, group participants, debrief, use of information after the exercise etc. ✓ Checklist to be used during the GBV Safety Walk exercise. ▪ Suggested full day and half-day agendas. ▪ All materials are translated to RO and RU. ▪ To be shared with the GBV Sub-Working Group and uploaded at UNHCR's Data Portal. 	
<p>Livelihoods and GBV risk mitigation resources</p> <p>Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR</p> <p>Jana Nagnitschenko, UNFPA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2022, the GBV Sub-Working Group conducted a session with the Livelihoods Working Group on how to identify and mitigate GBV risks within livelihoods programming. • Based on inputs from participants and on findings from the GBV Safety Audit, as well as on commonly identified risks, the following risks should be highlighted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ People needing to resort to informal jobs and economy and being exposed to GBV risks and exploitation. ▪ Need to engage in the sale and exchange of sex as a coping mechanism. On this, in Ukraine, local organization Legal Life published a report where they analyse the different situations of sex workers and the risks they face, including those who started doing sex work because of the war, those who stopped doing sex work because of security concerns related to the war, those who moved from the country, and the strategies they found to keep themselves safe. The report also covers some aspects related to their health and the disruption in the access to services. ▪ Harassment and abuse, especially in unregulated markets 	<p>Follow up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link to the report from Legal Life on the impacts of the Ukraine war in the lives of sex workers - Impact of the war in Ukraine on the socio-economic situation of sex workers and conditions of sex work. • Link to GBV SWG September 2024 presentation with information on livelihoods and GBV risks.

- Economic vulnerability increases risks of sexual exploitation and abuse by humanitarian workers. It is very common in humanitarian situations for risks of SEA to increase with the decrease in assistance.
 - Women’s multiple roles and breadwinners and caretakers, which can result in risks related to both tensions in the household and to them being exposed to risky situations.
 - Different groups are affected in distinct ways by these risks, and some are disproportionately affected, such as refugees. This is due to many factors, including the disruption in community ties, lack of access to information, lack of access to work opportunities, documentation issues that prevent them from finding decent job opportunities, among others.
- When well-designed livelihoods and economic inclusion programmes mitigate GBV risks:
 - Programmes that include protective mechanisms to monitor and address potential risk factors can help reduce exposure to violence and exploitation, while empowering participants with skills training and social and financial capital. Including:
 - Providing at-risk groups with safe alternatives for generating income.
 - Enhance their knowledge and skills on financial management, resource management and leadership.
 - Empower people and reduce gender inequality.
 - Space for safe disclosures.
- Livelihoods and economic inclusion programmes should not:
 - Reinforce traditional roles.
 - Add burdens by increasing workloads.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fuel conflict within the household or community by changing gender norms/dynamics and shifting balance of control between men and women. ▪ Heighten the risk of experiencing violence. • GBV risks and livelihoods resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Livelihoods Thematic Area of the Guidelines for Integrating GBV Interventions in Humanitarian Action – focused on mitigation. ▪ IRC Women Rise curriculum can help design activities that combine empowerment and skills development. ▪ Engaging Men Through Accountable Practices (EMAP) is focused on men but includes women as beneficiaries. Aspects of EMAP can be integrated into programmes to work on gender equality while building skills. 	
<p>Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) Consolidation Process</p> <p>Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently there are 29 active RACs. • 1,445 persons accommodated in these 29 RACs, including 122 persons with disabilities, 274 persons 60+, 53 children 0-2 years old, and 519 children between 5-18 years old. • One RAC in the process of closing • Recently (July/August)-closed RACs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Causeni (UID 210) ▪ Copceac, Gagauzia (137) ▪ Two in Chisinau (UIDs 82 and 117 - student dormitories, one from the State University) ▪ Costesti (UID 44) • Challenges raised by persons accommodated in the RACs and being relocated include finding affordable rent in villages, WASH facilities in accommodation available does not meet standards, including to mitigate GBV risks. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited job opportunities in rural areas, affecting local integration of refugees. Anxiety related to a new displacement. After people spent years in a RAC, they will need to move again, which affects their mental health. 	
Updates from partners	<p>Fede Bagolin, WeWorld: As WeWorld prepares to launch community centers in the north in October, we will be implementing activities focused on GBV prevention and risk mitigation, as well as sexual and reproductive health. If anyone is currently working on similar initiatives or has relevant suggestions, please reach out to us via email. We are in the process of recruiting and are particularly interested in identifying candidates with specific experience in these areas.</p> <p>Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR: We anticipate holding a meeting either in October or, alternatively, scheduling an ad-hoc meeting to mid or late September. We will keep you informed and share the details with you soon.</p>	<p>Follow up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Since no additional trainings are scheduled by the GBV SWG for the remainder of the year, the GBV SWG members are requested to share their training needs. This will help the GBV SWG replicate and build upon the trainings previously held.

Next GBV SWG meeting	
Date and Time	To be confirmed