

MOLDOVA: GENDER TASK FORCE MEETING

Meeting Details	
Date	20 May 2022
Time	10:00 – 11:30
Venue	Zoom
Chair	Ms. Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women), Ms. Nina Lozinschi (Gender Equality Platform)
Agenda	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Updates Refugee Coordination Forum ● Issues to flag ● Update on GiHA checklist ● Update on GiHA training ● Update on NGO mapping ● AOB 	

Participants			
#	Name	Organization	Function
1	Dominika Stojanoska	UN Women	Country Representative
2	Heba Zayyan	UN Women Palestine	Gender in Humanitarian Action Specialist
3	Nighina Azizov	UN Women	Programme Analyst
4	Olesea Simion	UN Women	Communications Officer
5	Evghenia Hiora	UN Women	Project Officer
6	Renata Grădinaru	UN Women	Gender Expert
7	Elena Calix	UNHCR	Inter-Agency Coordination Officer
8	Khaled Skah	UNHCR	Information Management

9	Ioana Creitaru	UNDP	Resilience and Livelihoods Coordinator
10	Irene Quizon	WHO	PSAE Specialist
11	Svetlana Mirca	State Chancellery	Lead Consultant in Direction of Coordination for Human Rights and Social Dialogue
12	Mariana Ioga	National Agency for Social Protection	Head of Social Assistance and Rehabilitation Department
13	Nina Lozinschi	Gender Equality Platform	General Secretary of the Platform
14	Irina Luncasu	CALM	Project Coordinator
15	Liliana Palihovici	Institutum Virtutes Civilis	President
16	Valentina Bodrug-Lungu	Gender-Centru	President

Summary of discussions and agreements/ action items

Agenda/Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p>Opening remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women) presented meeting agenda and invited new members to present themselves. ● Irene Quizon (WHO), Heba Zayyan (UN Women), Khaled Skah (UNHCR) presented themselves. ● Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women) briefly explained the purpose and tasks of the GTF – coordination, gender mainstreaming across all sectors of humanitarian response and exchange of information. 	
<p>Updates from Refugee Coordination Forum (RCF)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women) provided GTF members with updates from the last Refugee Coordination meeting as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Efforts have been made on strengthening coordination and response at border crossing points in Otaci and Palanca. ▪ Contingency plan for the scenario of a mass influx of refugees coming from Ukraine is under elaboration by the Government. ▪ UN Women raised the issue of gender imbalance among security forces and frontline workers. International organisations and humanitarian actors were encouraged by the UNHCR to pay more attention to this and make sure their frontline staff is gender 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Share minutes of RCF meeting ● Check with GBV SWG on details and share with GTF

<p>balanced.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Gender Based Violence Sub-Group planned Safety Audits to assess the risks of gender-based violence in various locations. ▪ The Education Working Group is informed of 1800 refugee children enrolled in formal education. It is important to have this information disaggregated by sex and age. A Rapid Assessment on Educational Needs is ongoing. The methodology thereof has been reviewed by the GTF. There is a need to request EWG to provide disaggregated data on school enrollment. ▪ Launch event of the Refugee Response Plan is upcoming. ▪ There have been two high-level visits to Moldova – UN Secretary General, Antonio Guterres, and Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Pramila Patten. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ioana Creitaru (UN Women) informed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Inclusion and Livelihoods Working Group had a couple of technical discussions with UN Women on the first joint activity – upcoming GiHA training. UNDP expects to dedicate some of its capacities on gender to the GiHA trainings. ▪ The Livelihood and Inclusion Working Group will review the GiHA checklist and provide comments to make sure that livelihood and inclusion aspects are well reflected. ● Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women) underlined the importance of collaboration between the groups. ● Elena Calix (UNHCR) informed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UNHCR started the contingency plan mapping exercise to understand emergency response and preparedness activities available in case of a mass influx from Ukraine. UNHCR is currently cleaning the submitted data, it will be presented at the next Refugee Coordination meeting on Monday. There are circa 70 organisations and UN Agencies included in the contingency related activities. ▪ RRP launch event is tentatively scheduled for Friday, 27 May 2022, pending confirmation from the Government. An invitation will be sent separately. It will be a short but important event to present the RRP plan at the national level, as well as responses and achievements at the country level. 	
<p>Issues to Flag</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Irene Quizon (WHO) asked if the reports of high-level visits were available. ● Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women) informed that: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Check if Pramila Patten visit report is available

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The reports are not yet ready, but UN Women is supposed to receive the draft report including recommendations for review. Pramila Patten had many meetings with authorities, ombudsperson and public prosecutors. The purpose of her visit was advocacy on strengthening prevention of conflict related sexual violence including trafficking. For the conflict related sexual violence, the discussion was around ensuring protection and safety places for victims, sharing information, reporting on the cases and following up. The main focus was on prevention of trafficking, ensuring protection and distinguishing between gender-based violence and conflict related sexual violence that are different when it comes to investigation and follow up. NGOs shared several limitations of the legal system in Moldova related to trafficking, reporting and following up that will be presented in writing. Should the visit report be received by UN Women, it will be shared with the GTF. ▪ A special Commission of Inquiry is being established for the cases of the conflict related sexual violence in Ukraine. There will be a gender investigator attached to the team of investigators supported by UN Women. At some point in the future, the investigator will provide GTF with a bit of information on the mandate and operation methodology of the Commission of Inquiry. She will develop a factsheet and will share it with the GTF. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Check when the investigator is available for the GTF meeting
<p>Update on GiHA Checklist</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Heba Zayyan (UN Women) updated on the GiHA checklist: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Feedback received from the members of GTF was addressed and the checklist was standardized for all sectors to follow the same logic in terms of needs assessment and analysis, planning, resource mobilisation, implementation and monitoring, and review and evaluation. Efforts were made to establish the bare minimum actions needed for gender responsive planning and response for every sector/working group. ▪ Checklist follows the logic of the Gender in Humanitarian Action Handbook, a product of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, but is aligned to the structure of the refugee coordination in Moldova and uses context appropriate language. ▪ PSEA does not have a separate checklist but is mainstreamed across all sectors and sections within each sector. ▪ Checklist has 11 working groups and provides gender mainstreaming guidance and examples for each. Specific sections under working groups were briefly presented. ▪ Checklist is a live document, it continues to develop to better reflect the local context and provides basic guidelines for humanitarian actors in Moldova. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Send checklist to the Regional Gender Task Force and Sector leads in Moldova for review ● Send the final version of checklist to GTF for endorsement ● Present the checklist in every working group

- **Dominika Stojanoska** (UN Women) informed that:
 - Checklist will be shared with the Regional Gender Task Force and sector leads for peer-review and inputs to be provided by 1 June 2022.
 - Once the checklist is peer- reviewed and endorsed by the GTF members, it will need to be presented at the meeting of each working group.
 - Checklist is important as it will improve the impact of other sectors on the ground.
- **Dominika Stojanoska** (UN Women) suggested to discuss the dynamics of response and ensure there is women empowerment embedded into it at the one-day event on sharing experiences and best practices. Refugee response now is very much focused on protection, but it is necessary to change the narrative a bit – women are not only refugees in need of protection, but they are also agents of change. Proposals from local and international NGOs are welcome. UN Women will come up with some suggestions.
- **Elena Calix** (UNHCR) suggested to announce the GiHA checklist on the upcoming Refugee Coordination Forum meeting on Monday and to ask members to engage in this exercise.
- **Dominika Stojanoska** (UN Women) mentioned that it will be important for UN Women with gender mainstreaming mandate and UNHCR with coordination mandate to make sure that the checklist is properly considered and implemented in other working groups.
- **Ioana Creitaru** (UNDP) mentioned that there are very strong messages to pass in this context of specificity of the refugee crisis in Moldova, where 80% of refugees are women. It is an interesting case to highlight how to apply gender lens to this specific nature of the refugee population in Moldova.
- **Dominika Stojanoska** (UN Women) mentioned that it is important to start a conversation within the GTF on shifting the narrative about refugee women.
- **Heba Zayyan** (UN Women) mentioned that:
 - Checklist is very specific and humanitarian action related, oriented towards onset of crisis, immediate refugee response but not irrespective of peace building, development and the H-D-P nexus. As it is tailored to humanitarian sphere, it will inform rapid refugee response. If we want to provide a practical tool to humanitarian actors, it has to be tailored to purely humanitarian issues. At the same time, a separate discussion on nexus, recovery schemes and resilience related programming is welcome.
 - 80% of women among refugees makes the refugee crisis in Moldova unique but should not make us ignore the gendered impacts on other groups i.e. elderly men, LGBTQI, boys

<p>etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ioana Creitaru (UNDP) mentioned that Moldova is not a purely humanitarian setting, so making this very narrow may not be as relevant and encouraged GTF as a group to frame these tools to the actual setting in Moldova so they are used by the community. ● Heba Zayyan (UN Women) explained that every refugee crisis is never purely humanitarian in its nature, but the dynamics, the trends, the risks, the gaps that are being now brought to Moldova in relation to the refugee population are of humanitarian nature. The landscape of actors in Moldova should not be ignored, but in dealing with humanitarian consequences, a humanitarian lens needs to be applied with the nexus approach in mind. 	
<p>Update on GiHA training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) provided additional details on the GiHA training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Goal of the training is to provide humanitarian response actors with practical knowledge on mainstreaming gender into humanitarian action to be able to formulate and deliver response that is people-centered, gender-sensitive and with a particular focus on poorest, most vulnerable and furthers left behind. ▪ Training aims at 4 groups of actors – sector leads, government, Gender Task Force and frontline workers. ▪ Tentatively, sector leads – first week of June, 2 days training, hybrid, 20 participants. ▪ Tentatively, government – second week of June, half day training, online, 30 participants. ▪ Tentatively, Gender Task Force - third week of June, 4 days training, hybrid, 40 participants. ▪ Tentatively, frontline workers – fourth week of June, 1 day training, TBD, 150 participants. ▪ Content of the training includes introduction and key approaches to GEWE, needs analysis and assessment, strategic planning, resource mobilisation, implementation and monitoring, action planning, PSEA and MHPSS depending on the audience. ▪ UN Women Regional Office, UNHCR, UNPD are interested to partner with UN Women on this training. Other humanitarian actors are invited to collaborate. ● Nina Lozinschi (Gender of Gender Equality) suggested to include trafficking component for the frontline workers. ● Irene Quizon (WHO) mentioned that WHO is happy to provide support on PSEA, to have one or two slides in the presentation. ● Heba Zayyan (UN Women) mentioned that it is important to use case studies and real-life examples in the training to address specific issues. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Share final concept note with GTF ● Share pre-registration form

<p>Update on NGOs mapping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) informed that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UN Women and UNHCR plan to do a mapping of services/actors that are being provided to refugees. ▪ Mapping is expected to cover north, south and center of Moldova, as well as Transnistria. ▪ Mapping is planned to cover preliminary screening of organisations, as well as capacity assessment for a number thereof. ▪ GBV SWG, WHO and NGO “People in Need” will be consulted on the screening they have done on protection and MHPS to avoid duplication. ▪ NGOs are invited to express their interest in being contracted for such an exercise. ● Heba Zayyan (UN Women) mentioned that the exercise will be shaped further down by the UN Women. 	
<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) informed the members of the GTF that UN Women has been invited to take part in the regular meetings of the Joint Crisis Management Center on Fridays and suggested to re-schedule GTF meetings to either Fridays 12:00 or Wednesdays 11:00. GTF members agreed that Wednesday mornings are better. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reschedule GTF meetings to Wednesdays
<p>Suggestions for the Next Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Approval of the final work plan 	

The next meeting is scheduled for 7 June 2022 from 10:00 -11:30 in [Zoom](#). Interpretation in Romanian will be provided.