

MOLDOVA: GENDER TASK FORCE MEETING

Meeting Details	
Date	26 July 2022
Time	11:30 – 13:00
Venue	Zoom
Chair/ co-chair	Ms. Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women), Ms. Nina Lozinschi (Gender Equality Platform)
Agenda	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update from the Refugee Coordination Forum (IM WG) • Perspectives and challenges of work with refugees (Gender Centru) • MSNA presentation (Reach) • AOB 	

Participants			
#	Name	Organization	Function
1	Fatima Wahaidy	UNFPA	GBV Program Specialist
2	Valentina Bodrug-Lungu	Gender-Centru	President
3	Evghenia Hiora	UN Women	Project Officer
4	Patrick Dimanin	Helvetas	
5	Liliana Istrate	NGO "La Strada"	Project Manager
6	Atria Mier	Action Aid	
7	Dominika Stojanoska	UN Women	Country Representative
8	Daria Barnos	UN Women	Administrative Associate
9	Yurii Arnautov	UNHCR	Information Management WG
10	Terguta Violeta	UNFPA	

11	Victoria Ignat	UN Women	Programme Analyst
12	Iuliana Bordeianu	UN Women	
13	Svetlana Mirca	State Chancellery	Lead Consultant in Direction of Coordination for Human Rights and Social Dialogue
14	Cristina Lesnic	UN Women	Gender Expert
15	Kristin Schmitz	UNHCR	PSEA Coordinator
16	Rebeca Acin	UN Women RO	Regional humanitarian specialist
17	Valentina Duque	UNHCR	GBV Officer
18	Nighina Azizov	UN Women	Programme Analyst
19	Renata Gradinaru	UN Women	Gender Expert
20	Irene Quizon	WHO	Prevention and Response SEAH
21	LILIANA PALIHOVICI	Institutum Virtutes Civilis	President
22	Erin MacDonald	WHO	Prevention and Response SEAH
23	Ludmila Bocsanean	UN Women	Project Associate
24	Tatiana Udrea	UN Women	Programme Coordinator
25	Alin Luchian	REACH	Regional MSNA Senior Assessment Officer
26	Abandokht Sarkarati	UNFPA	Roving GBV & CVA Specialist
27	Viorica Culeac	UN Women	Programme Officer

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) welcomed participants and presented the meeting agenda. She suggested the next two meetings to be facilitated by Nina Lozinschi. 	
<p>Perspectives and challenges of work with refugees (Gender Centru)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Valentina Bodrug-Lungu (Gender Centru) reported that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gender Centru started implementation of the project with the financial support from WPHF. The National Conference was launched and it served as platform for experience exchange among CSO, activists and female refugees. The Conference was implemented on the basis of Platform for Gender Equality and in partnership with the Political Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Links to the material and presentation shared in the chat are available bellow under the section "Material

50/50 and “Onoarea și Dreptul Femeii Contemporane” din Balti. Despite difficulties there are positive examples of engaging refugees in labor market and their involvement in different activities. The local actors are dealing with individual problems, as for example, wheelchairs for persons with disabilities, strollers for children, children who require special attention (as for example children with allergies and autism). Those needs were identified, and attempts are made to cover it on local level. Besides, excursions were organized, refugees were involved in volunteering.

- A regional project focused on the Implementation of the Resolution 1325 in partnership with the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders with the support of Austrian Cooperation Agency and with active implication of UN Women has started. It supported a workshop on Women Leadership in Crisis Situation and gathered female mayors and activists. Ms. Lesnik and Ms. Mordarovich offered new perspective on human security and underlined the necessity to bring into political agenda the adaptation of the second National Program on Implementation of the Resolution 1325, especially taking into consideration current circumstances caused by war. This issue was underlined during the workshops by the participants, as well as during the workshop on evaluation and monitoring of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda by the representatives of the ministries and other institutions.
- The Refugee Center under the State University currently accommodates and provides assistance to circa 50 persons (mostly women and children). Based on the challenges identified in work with refugees, Ms. Bodrug recommended the following: 1) to analyze and address the refugee status, to introduce provisional (temporary) refugee status following the examples from different states to pave the way to labor market for refugees. 2) to advocate for transparency of the resources received by the country.
- There is a number of challenges identified with regards to education as follows:
 - Referral of children to summer camps, women expressed concerns in relation to sending children alone due to the psychological trauma they faced.
 - Local teachers flag the problem related to the upcoming school year and the enrollment of refugee children. Teachers will need to conduct lessons in Russian and do extra hours that need to be reimbursed.
 - A number of refugees expressed willingness to take teacher’s role and conduct classes in Ukrainian.
 - A number of refugees expressed the interest in English courses and IT.

shared”

- There is lack of resources and lack of coordination on the government level. She appreciated the establishment of GTF and other working groups but urged to work more on effective information management. Refugees are often found unaware of the activities conducted. Refugees are not fully informed on services available for adults, specifically medical services for women - mammologist/ gynecologist consultations. Ms. Bodrug suggested to share the idea of mobile team of doctors to give specialist consultations to the refugee population as well as locals with the health group.
- **Fatima Al-Wahaidy** (UNFPA) asked when the conversation with refugees took place and noted that the refugees residing outside of the RACs need the services the most. She also stressed that coordination is utterly necessary and mentioned that the UNFPA offers access to sexual and reproductive health services. Thus, it is important to spread the message on each other's activities to ensure that the information on available services reaches the beneficiaries.
- **Svetlana Mirca** (State Chancellery) referring to the refugee status ensured that the discussion on the issue is ongoing, and updates are expected to follow. In terms of the summer camps Ms. Mirca advised to address the Center of the Youth and Sport as this is their prerogative. With regards to the lack of access to the labor market for refugees, she draw attention to the [decision 4 as of 1 March 2022](#) of the Emergency Situations Committee that allows refugees from Ukraine to work without temporal residence permit, employment agencies are aware of it and offer assistance.
- **Cristina Lesnic** (UN Women) reconfirmed that the mayors are willing to support resolution 1325 and local authorities are ready to engage if the financial situation allows them to. However, she believes there is a lack of support from central authorities. Ms. Lesnic informed about the previous practice of medical mobile teams travelling according to a preestablished schedule and providing consultations in communities lacking specialists and suggested to replicate this practice for refugees given the high cost of travelling to Chisinau from the regions.
- **Valentina Bogrug** (Gender Centru) informed Fatima that the conversation with refugees took place on 20 July and mentioned that despite multiple efforts and hard work the information reaches the regions hard. She also informed that a number of refugees from the State University expressed deep concern that they might be forced to leave the country as the result of expiration of 90 days stay period, the same reason hinders their employment.
- **Svetlana Mirca** (State Chancellery) informed that according to the current regulations, refugees from Ukraine are allowed to stay longer than 90 days in Moldova. Only after the state

of emergency declared by the Parliament is lifted, the calculation of 90 days stay limit will be resumed.

- **Valentina Bogrug** (Gender Centru) explained the fact that the question on the limit on residence came from mayors, what re-confirms that information is not reaching the communities and underlines the need for enhanced information management.
- **Cristina Lesnic** (UN Women) stressed that although refugees could not be forced to return to the war zone according to the international law, however their status in the country after the 90 days is still unclear.
- **Svetlana Mirca** (State Chancellery) re-confirmed that refugees from Ukraine are allowed to stay longer than 90 days in Moldova and assured that the clarification on the rights of refugees will soon be elaborated and communicated by the state.
- **Valentina Bodrug** (Gender Centru) confirmed that clarification is highly needed, as some of refugees expressed interest in learning Romanian and staying in the country for a longer period.
- **Dominika Stojanoska** (UN Women) added that the situation is getting more complicated as specific needs of refugees are being identified, which leads to the necessity of establishing proper dialogue to better communicate those needs to the specific actors as for example working groups specializing on those aspects where the assistance is required. As CSO are not all participating in those sector working groups, Dominika suggested to invite the representatives of the working groups to the meeting of the CSO with the refugees. She also suggested to enhance the communication with refugees and to better convey the messages and ensure the exchange of information between the refugees and working groups, so the information on the needs reaches the CSO and working groups and information on available services reaches the refugees. Dominika urged to spread the message on the WPHF Open Call for Proposal, which could be an opportunity to cover the identified needs. The country is already in economic and energy crisis which may cause tensions in the society and called for preventive measures to ensure peace.
- **Valentina Bogrug** (Gender Centru) stressed the necessity to cover needs on the local level, coordination of the efforts and better communication.

Update from the Refugee Coordination Forum (IM WG)

- **Yurii Arnautov** (UNHCR) informed GTF on the following:
 - UNHCR is planning a Joint Inter Agency Data Analysis and Interpretation Initiative to be able to better plan the refugee response for 2023. In this light, the members of the GTF

- The guidance to submit the questions to be shared by

<p>are invited to suggest research question by 15 of August 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Winterization exercise has been unrolled and organisations are asked to register the planned activities related to and specific for winter season for better coordination and planning by 6 August. The analysis of inputs is planned to be finalized by the end of summer and will be channeled into the winter strategy for refugee response. 	<p>UNHCR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The information on winterization project submission to be shared, invitation on workshop on the guidelines how to upload the information in the system to follow from UNHCR.
<p>MSNA presentation (Reach)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alin Lucian (REACH) gave a brief description of MSNA objectives, which are focused on identifying needs and coping capacities of Ukrainian refugees in Moldova. Data collection method – face to face interview, 704 interviews conducted in total, 84 % of the respondents were female, average respondents age was 31 years, 62 % families with children, the questionnaire looked at the employment issues, healthcare needs, education, safety etc. The data was desegregated in terms of gender and age group with demonstration of the difference between female and male responses and children where it was applicable. Draft report is expected to be available in mid-August and feedback is welcomed. ▪ Cristina Lesnic (UN Women) asked about the safety perception, whether it related to country in general or to the community. Mr. Lucian clarified that it related to the feeling of safety in the community. ▪ Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women) asked if it was possible to cross analyze the data, in terms of identifying the location and the answer was that the information on location is very general. However, the area-based assessment is planned, which will look at specific neighborhoods in Chisinau and will cover education as well. Concept Note will be shared for input and feedback. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presentation to be shared ▪ Concept note to be shared
<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nighina Azizov (UN Women) informed that the government approved the draft law on EVAW to be debated in Parliament. The draft is based on 2 compatibility reports: 1) Alignment of the 	

national legislation to the Istanbul Convention. 2) Lanzarote Convention as some of aspects of sexual violence cover child protection. The main proposal is to redefine rape and consent notions, revisit involuntary action and provisions related to other types of sexual violence. It also covers protection of victim and sanction for aggressors, rehabilitation program for aggressors, mental health activities, increased protection of women rights, the right not to confront the aggressor in court and the necessity to notify the victim of the release of the aggressor etc. The provisions are based on international practices and in line with Istanbul Convention. The hope is that the amendments will be accepted and will come to force in 6 months.

- **Rebeca Acin** (UN Women RO) informed that:
 - There is an online meeting upcoming with the experts from the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry (Col) on Ukraine and encouraged members of the GTF to attend. The session aims to increase understanding about the work of the Col, learn more about how and where to report alleged cases of SGBV and identify service providers where the Col can refer SGBV survivors and other witnesses in need. Translation in Romanian and Ukrainian will be provided.
 - The Regional Gender Task Force works on the Regional Gender Analysis, the validation will soon start. Dedicated working sessions will be organized, those who are interested in participation can address Rebeca through the shared email in order to be included in the invitation.

Material shared

- **Rebeca Acin** (UN Women RO) rebeca.acin@unwomen.org

The next meeting is scheduled for 9 August, 11:30 – 13:00.