

MOLDOVA: GENDER TASK FORCE MEETING

Meeting Details	
Date	30 August 2022
Time	11:30 – 13:00
Venue	Zoom
Chair/ co-chair	Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women), Nina Lozinschi (Platform for Gender Equality)
Agenda	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update from the Refugee Coordination Forum • Update from UN Women – issues flagged at the last meetings, Gender in Humanitarian Action trainings • Women voices: Gender Centru • Gaps, challenges and solutions for Information Management in Refugee Response • AOB 	

Participants			
#	Name	Organization	Function
1	Dominika Stojanoska	UN Women	Country Representative
2	Nina Lozinschi	Gender Equality Platform	
3	Heba Zayyan	UN Women	Programme Specialist
4	Nighina Azizov	UN Women	Programme Analyst
5	Evghenia Hiora	UN Women	Project Officer
6	Daria Barnos	UN Women	Administrative Associate
7	Ludmila Bocsanean	UN Women	Project Associate
8	Yurii Arnautov	UNHCR	Information Management WG

9	Stelea Natalia	UNHCR	
10	Petru Lupu	UNHCR	
11	Olesea Perean	UNDP	
12	Fatima Al-Wahaidy	UNFPA	GBV Program Specialist
13	Abandokht Sarkarati	UNFPA	Roving GBV & CVA Specialist
14	Lou Mazel	U.S. Embassy Chisinau	Regional Refugee Coordinator
15	Liliana Palihovici	NGO "Institutum Virtues Civilis"	President
16	Anca Soldubanu	CLEAR Global	Country Program Manager Romania / Moldova - Ukraine Response
17	Atria Mier	ActionAid	
18	Stefania Martello	ACTED Moldova	Protection Project Manager
19	Azam Baig	HelpAge	
20	Olesea Garbuz		
21	Doina Cazacu		

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 agenda of the meeting. 	
<p>Update from the Refugee Coordination Forum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yurii Arnautov (UNHCR) provided updates from the last RCF: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Formulation of winterization strategy is ongoing. Many partners have already submitted information on the projects. Yurii announced last call and encouraged organizations that have not yet submitted to submit. UNHCR will run a quick winterization assessment to better understand the needs. The data collection is expected to last for one week for the preliminary findings to be ready the following week. There will be the winterization workshop, the date has been changed from 9 September to 15 September. Additional information on the workshop 	

<p>will follow.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Once the winterization strategy is ready and published, RCF will immediately proceed to RRP planning for 2023. Additional information on this process will be communicated in due time. 	
<p>Update from UN Women – issues flagged at the last meetings, Gender in Humanitarian Action trainings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) provided a quick update on the issues flagged during the last meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Issues related to education (can children attend summer camps with their mothers, is there any interest to involve refugee women as teachers, availability of English or IT courses for refugee women, difficulties related to increased volume of work caused by the need to cover the refugee needs, etc.) have been addressed by Yera Kim (UNICEF) at one of the previous meetings. ▪ Issues related to health (medical mobile teams, what services they provide, how can women access mammologist and gynecologist services, is there any cooperation between MoH in Moldova and Ukraine to facilitate exchange of information on vaccination, etc.) will most likely be addressed at the next GTF meeting by the representatives of the Health WG. ▪ Issues related to information management will be discussed later at this meeting. • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) has also updated on the Gender in Humanitarian Action training: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 trainings have been organized so far – for the members of the GTF (3 days, 17 participants), government representatives (4 hours, 35 participants) and frontliners (4 hours, 62 participants), training for the sector leads is pending the results of the pre-registration survey. ▪ Stressed the importance and value of the pre-registration survey – it allowed to tailor the format and the content of the training precisely to the needs of pre-registered participants. ▪ Trainings were ranked positively. 96% and 89% of participants found the training useful and practical for the job respectively. Most interest was for sex and gender, intersectionality and vulnerability, diversity. Top rated topics were practical examples of GiHA, PSEA. 72% and 82% found the online format and duration accordingly optimal. 93% were satisfied with training with the interpretation. 89% expressed interest in GiHA, GBV and PSEA topics for future trainings. Good structure of the material and demonstration of practical examples during the training were noted, as a lesson learnt for the future trainings, however, it was advised to use even more practical examples and more interaction with the participants. • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) has informed on the open call for proposals from the Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Call was extended to 16 September 2022. ▪ It provides funds for civil society organizations in conflict, post-conflict and humanitarian 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WPHF Call for Proposal link: https://wphfund.org/regional-call-for-proposals-in-ukraine/?fbclid=IwAR2t2rekL3xIfsWnoVDee84afv7JWtt6oMbxOPjhfNKjsLHhXGbhi-K1C1k • Contact person for additional information on the Call and trainings Evghenia Hiora evghenia.hiora@unwomen.org • Fatima to share information on the GBV Pocket Guide training

<p>settings and focuses on socio-economic recovery and political participation. It targets international, national, regional or local grassroots women or young women-led, women's rights, youth rights or civil society organizations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are 2 streams of funding: institutional funding of 5,000-30,000\$ for capacity building and programmatic funding of 30,000-350,000\$ for programmes. Organisations may apply for both. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mentioned that the link for application will be shared in the minutes, encouraged to apply and share the information. She underlined that an information session with the Secretariat can be organized if more information is required, participants are kindly asked to approach Evghenia for this, if needed. The Steering Committee will soon have a meeting to review previous applications. ▪ As working groups are developing their Standard Operating Procedures (Education, GBV, PSEA, etc.), suggested to organize a meeting to discuss the updates and to adjust the upcoming trainings based on that and encouraged information sharing on the trainings among working groups. • Fatima Al-Wahaidy (UNFPA) informed that Evghenia has delivered a presentation on Gender in Humanitarian Action Checklist at the last GBV SWG meeting and shared the information on participants who have expressed interest for GBV training. Fatima confirmed that they will be invited to the Training of Trainers on GBV Pocket Guide that is planned for September. 	
<p>Women voices: Gender Centru</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nina Lozinschi (Gender Equality Platform) informed that Gender Center and Women Political Club are offering institutional support to crisis centers in 20 communities and have collected the following information from the ground: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The needs of communities are refugee vary from one case to another. ▪ Gender in Humanitarian Action and Protection against Sexual Exploitation and Abuse are not easy to comprehend topics at the community level. Not all actors on the frontline are able to provide gender-sensitive assistance. ▪ Social cohesion remains an issue. Many community centers are closing due to the lack of accreditation and resources for maintenance, heating or offering hot drinks to affected population. ▪ Refugee women struggle to balance care work and employment. Many refugee women willing to get employed are unable, because of lack of childcare facilities or services. ▪ There is no sufficient or clear information on the rights of refugees and asylum status. There is 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evghenia to share the connection to the meeting details. • Update request on unified data base from Congress of Local authorities to be shared during the next meeting or per email • Follow-up on the

misinformation, that once applied for asylum, refugees will not be able to leave the territory of Moldova. As the result, many of them do not apply and as a consequence cannot gain full access to the labor market and get employment.

- Mental health and well-being of refugees heavily depends on their social integration into Moldavian society. Refugees are willing to get involved in information management, so that they can support and deliver accurate and timely information to their co-citizens. Public discussions events as one organized by the UN Women on the Refugee Day are important.
- Refugee adolescents require increased attention and targeted support, including counselling and social reintegration.
- Romanian language courses for children of school age are highly needed.
- Women adapt better coping strategies when provided with safe spaces, reliable information and opportunities to discuss issues. Not all communities have premises and necessary staff to ensure this, mobile teams are very much needed.
- Refugee needs assessments are complicated, as they imply collaboration between the local public authorities and local NGOs, what is not always happening efficiently. Many social workers experience burnout and are overstretched. A joint data collection and distribution system for the local public administrations is necessary.
- Trainings on Gender in Humanitarian Action are necessary at the local level.
- **Doina Cazacu** pointed that as long as emergency state is not lifted in Moldova, refugees are allowed to stay longer than 90 days. She mentioned that there should be serious grounds for obtaining asylum – persecution on the grounds of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group and political opinion. Many refugees will not have those grounds, as armed conflict or war does not justify asylum seeking claims. There is a simpler modality for refugees to legalize their stay in Moldova – residence permit for work or study. She encouraged local CSOs to encourage refugees to proceed with this modality.
- **Nina Lozinschi** (Gender Equality Platform) mentioned that they have been recommended by a representative of the Bureau of Migration and Asylum to encourage refugees to apply for asylum.
- **Doina Cazacu** suggested to re-confirm this recommendation with the Bureau of Migration and Asylum and informed that the Government is working at the temporary protection status.
- **Nina Lozinschi** (Gender Equality Platform) pointed out that the residence permit does not cover cases of women staying on the territory of Moldova and providing care to their children and therefore not able to work.
- **Dominika Stojanoska** (UN Women) suggested to share the draft of the directive for the temporary

updates from the working group for the next meeting

<p>protection in this group once it is made public. The Ministry of Internal Affairs and UNHCR are now discussing the issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fatima Al-Wahaidy (UNFPA) informed that the Protection WG has already called a meeting to discuss the temporary protection and stressed that it is important to feed gender perspective into the discussions on temporary protection. • Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encouraged CSOs to participate in Protection WG meeting to voice the concerns and messages and participate in discussions on temporary protection. ▪ Referring to the unified data base mentioned by Nina, Dominika informed that the Congress of Local Authorities was working on that and pointed that the follow up on this is required. 	
<p>Gaps, challenges and solutions for Information Management in Refugee Response</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Presented the information management concerns that were raised during the previous GTF meetings as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Refugees and LPAs lack information on refugee response and services available (example, medical services for women, legal status of refugees, etc.) - Regions and rural areas receive less information. Language capacities create barriers. - Discontent and anxiety in hosting communities. - Scope and the way the working groups work is not entirely clear to local actors. - Refugees are perceived as victims and not agents of change. ▪ Presented open questions suggested by the members of the GTF: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How can we better channel information from WG to CSOs, LPAs and refugees? - How could we better communicate the scope and mechanics of work of the WGs in a clearer way? ▪ Presented the solutions suggested by the members of the GTF: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Make an additional effort to translate communication as much as possible to Romanian. - Develop messages on refugee entitlements and convey a message that refugee support does not financially affect local population. - Develop messages on women refugees as agents of change. • Yurii Arnautov (UNHCR): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Noted that it is important to distinguish between information management, communication and coordination issues and to address them in the respective groups. ▪ Informed that Inter-Agency Team is now working on decentralization of coordination, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link for GiHA pre-registration shared in chat for distribution

expanding to other rayons. Several meetings have already taken place in Gagauzia, Stefan Voda, Ocnita and Cahul. Further localization is planned for future.

- Informed of ongoing development of the Interactive Service Advisory Tool that will map the services available in a particular area for different groups of population and will be available in Romanian.
- Informed that communication issues with local authorities and government have also been flagged in other working groups and noted for further action. A suggestion here might be to organize a webinar with the representatives to unpack the issues and identify expectations. UNDP assessment on LPA could serve as a starting point.
- UNHCR is already working on consolidation of information on available services, on ways to distribute information through the working groups and on messages that relate to refugees for host communities.
- Encouraged the members of the GTF and all humanitarian actors to express any concerns that relate to information management, so that these issues could be effectively addressed in due time.
- Underlined that UNHCR continues to collect research questions for the Joint Data Collection Exercise to produce the baseline data for projects.
- **Evghenia Hiora** (UN Women) thanked Yurii for the contribution, assured that the research question for the joint data analysis exercise will follow soon and asked if there are any information campaigns on refugee entitlements and their effect on local population are planned by UNHCR.
- **Yurii Arnautov** (UNHCR) pointed out that he will have to consult with the colleagues on that and informed that UNHCR is working with Crisis Cell and Ombudsman office to reach the local authorities through top-down approach and share the information on available services. In addition, the UNHCR is working with Dopomoga organization.
- **Evghenia Hiora** (UN Women) inquired if there is a possibility of aggregate updates from all the working groups to be shared with CSOs as a newsletter, as CSOs are not able to attend meetings of all working groups.
- **Yurii Arnautov** (UNHCR) informed that work is being done to centralize the contact list through the Kobo tool that will allow a centralized mail chain. Members of the GTF are encouraged to register and select the working groups they would like to receive updates from. There will be weekly digest of events that will be shared to everyone in the mailing chain. It will also allow to easily unsubscribe. Another source of reliable information remains [Operational Data Portal](#). Members of the GTF are also encouraged to reach the working groups bilaterally in case of any specific information needed.

<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) proposed to have the next GTF meeting on 20 September 2022 at 11:30. Members agreed. One of the suggested topics for agenda was updates from the Health working group. Evghenia encouraged international or local organizations to provide their updates and share their suggestions for the meeting agenda.	
<p>Material shared</p> <p>Kobo tool for contact list: https://kobo.unhcr.org/#/forms/ace2Y9uaG5VG9EDLeB6b9Y/summary</p>	

The next meeting is scheduled for 20 September 2022, 11:30 – 13:00.