UKRAINE REFUGEE SITUATION

REGIONAL GENDER TASK FORCE (RGTF) MEETING

11 May 2022, 16h00 – 17h30 (Istanbul time)

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Brief Introductions

- The chairs invited new members to introduce themselves. New members included the following:
  - Tetiana Grytsenko, Gender Specialist, UNDP in Ukraine
  - Heba Zayyan, Programme Specialist, UN Women Moldova
  - Andrea Castorina, Head of Safeguards for MENA in WFP
  - Betsabé Quintana Reyes, Safeguarding Advisor in Ukraine for Save the Children
  - Olena Ursu, Democratic Governance Team Leader, UNDP Ukraine
  - Carina Hickling, WHO PSEA Specialist Ukraine Response, Poland
  - Claudia Guidarini, Gender and GBV Advisor at Save the Children temporary supporting the Ukranian regional response.
  - Sharifa Abdul Aziz, GBViE Specialist with VOICE Amplified

- Regional Gender Task Force (RGTF) emerging issues to highlight within the other Regional Refugee Coordination Groups (i.e.: Regional Protection Working Group (RPWG), Regional Cash Working Group (RCWG), Regional Gender Based Violence (GBV) Sub-working Group:
  - An update on new regional refugee response coordination structures was provided. **UNHCR** (Caroline Brass) highlighted that the new GBV sub-group will hold its first meeting on 16 May at 3 pm CET and the meetings will take place on a bi-weekly basis. Those who are interested to attend and have not yet received an invitation are encouraged to reach out to (dulin@unhcr.org).
  - **CARE International** (Siobhán Foran) asked about being more structured and strategic in our joint work on communication, advocacy, policy and programming as most of the RGTF members are accommodating similar tasks and re-appearing in some of the same meetings.
  - **WHO** (Isabel Yordi) enquired about how different structures connected with the refugee response and are coordinating with other bodies such as the Regional Issue-based Coalitions (IBC[1]). She recommended to have this task force as a platform and to link it with institutionalized structures such as the IBC-Gender Equality (IBC-GE).
  - **UN Women** (Jo-Anne Bishop) noted a previous event held by the IBC-GE, where the recommendation for the creation of a stand-alone gender body within the regional refugee response coordination structure was recommended (minutes of the meeting to be circulated). She suggested that the draft Regional Rapid Gender Analysis (RGA) be shared with the Regional IBC-GE for review. She underlined that the RGTF has a regular place in the agenda of other structures such as Regional Protection Working Group (RPWG) Meetings to brief not only on what the RGTF's efforts but also the key gendered implications of the refugee response.
  - The idea of building an RGTF roving team to support gender integration in different refugee responses which are established in other countries or under different umbrellas (such as the EU hosting countries) was also discussed. **WHO** (Isabel Yordi) underlined that they have COs in EU member states, which is not very common for many other organizations. She recommended to invite representatives of relevant EU delegations to the RGTF.

[1] Issue-based Coalitions (IBC): Regional level Coordination structures formed around particular topics of issues. Example: Issue-based Coalition on Gender Equality (IBC-GE)

- The **Center for Reproductive Rights** (Leah Hoctor) suggested to include the EU Commission once EU's participation to the RGTF is confirmed. She mentioned that their counterparts from EU institutions are mainly from the region and well aware of the political and social contexts. The DG on Equality would be the most relevant focal point to be approached for the RGTF, which also bring wide political connotations that we all need to be aware of. Regarding the RGTF roving team, she mentioned that the EU context poses some challenges for the refugee response in four EU member states such as funding not being Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligible. She underlined the importance of including the expertise available at national level to ensure issues are resolved from the ground up. She sees the Regional RGA as an opportunity to highlight some of the challenges and present appropriate recommendations to address them. **UNHCR** (Caroline Brass) agreed with the comments, especially to have more locals/nationals in the RGF through increased involvement of women led organizations from different countries. She also indicated that the RGTF can benefit from the Regional RGA to drill into the main challenges and come up with concrete solutions.

2. Plan of Action/Work Plan (UN Women)

a. ***Mapping of Approaches/Interventions that actors are taking on targeted and mainstreaming efforts around gender (Matrix to Fill) – due on 18 May.***

Action Point: RGTF members to update the Mapping Matrix by 18 May.

3. Gender Analyses (CARE International)

a. Regional Inter-Agency Rapid Gender Analysis – Reminder to add existing resources or links of relevance to the Analysis within the Gender Analysis Sub-folder.

- **CARE International** (Siobhán Foran) provided an update on the Regional RGA, highlighting that the Action Group's first meeting took place on 5 May and the next meeting is scheduled for 12 May The purpose of the report is to have a sharp synthesis of the available analyses, highlight the key issues arising around the listed areas, identify emerging practices and possibly starting to fill some of the gaps with solid recommendations. She shared the agreed four topics of inquiry as: a. intersectional gender (lead by CARE and another actor (TBC)), b. SRHR (led by IPPF and Corus), c. GBV (led by IRC and IPP) including SEA and trafficking and d. women's leadership and participation (led by UN Women and CARE). The concept note and other material related to the Regional RGA can be found in the Gender Analysis Sub-folder.
- **Plan International** (Keren Simons) updated participants on an interagency children's consultation planned with Save the Children, UNICEF and UNHCR (tbc) to gauge the different impacts of the war on girls and boys which can complement the Regional RGA under intersectional gender chapter.

b. Updates from members on gender and/or diversity assessments - existing or planned - in any of the relevant countries

Nothing to report (NTR).

4. Advocacy (CARE International)

a. Discussion on the feedback from members on Priority Areas/Advocacy Asks.

Care International reminded participants that advocacy is one of the agreed areas that the RGTF will focus on. However, the advocacy component is currently on hold until evidence is produced by the Regional RGA is in place so it may be aligned. The Priority Areas/Advocacy Asks document can be found in the RGTF Dropbox.

5. Technical Capacity Support (UN Women)

a. Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) Training

- **UN Women** (Ekram Elhuni) underlined the importance of being demand-driven and noted the close collaboration of the RGTF GiHA Training Task Team (UNICEF, WFP, Corus and UN Women) with the Moldova Gender Task Force. She referred to the details of the draft concept note which has been developed for different target groups such as sector leads, government partners, front line workers and underlined that the target is to deliver at least one of the trainings before the end of May and to continue throughout June. The next session with the Task Team will take place soon to discuss the plan of action.
- **GenCap** (Dana Yanine Baron Romero) provided input on planned trainings at national level in Ukraine and asked for an exchange to ensure harmonization with the RGTF's GiHA trainings and avoid duplications.

6. Brief Presentations and Discussion (CARE International)

a. Ukraine GiHA Update

GenCap (Dana Yanine Baron Romero) highlighted that the Ukraine RGA was launched last week. The RGA was accompanied with one-pager information sheets targeting different clusters, underlining main findings and key recommendations. She referred to their efforts, together with different clusters, to integrate gender assessments into ongoing and planned humanitarian needs assessments and provide tools like checklists. Additionally, she indicated that the second Ukraine Gender Alert will be available in June focusing mainly on how the humanitarian response has been addressing specific needs of internally displaced women and girls including targeted cluster recommendations (including food security, WASH and health.)

b. Moldova GTF Update

UN Women (Ekram Elhuni) introduced Heba Zayyan who is on surge deployment to support UN Women Moldova with their refugee response and is co-chairing the Moldova GTF. Under the capacity building component of Moldova, planned checklists for each sector were mentioned and a regional level peer review by the RGTF has been discussed. Heba Zayyan added that they are currently incorporating inputs from different sectors for the checklist which will be standardized at the end of the process.

7. AOB

- Duration and frequency of the RGFT meetings was discussed. It was agreed to have the meetings every two weeks, and schedule meetings for one hour and keep it optional for up to 1.5 hours. The next meeting will take place on 25 May.
- **UN Women** and **CARE International** mentioned the recently launched Ukraine RGA and asked if a presentation would be required during the coming meeting. It was however, agreed not to have a presentation as it has already been shared widely.

Meeting Participants

No.	Organisation	Name/position	Email
1	ACTED	Svitlana Zhavoronka Gender Equality Advisor	svitlana.zhavoronkova@acted.org
2	ActionAid	Enrica Piras - Senior Emergency Manager – Poland in the interim until dedicated person appointed	enrica.piras@actionaid.org

3	CARE International (Co-chair)	Siobhán Foran, Regional Gender in Emergencies Coordinator	Foran@careinternational.org
4	Center for Reproductive Rights	Leah Hoctor, Senior Director for Europe, Center for Reproductive Rights	lhoctor@reprorights.org
5	FAO	Anna Jenderedjian Gender Mainstreaming and Social Protection specialist in FAO	anna.jenderedjian@fao.org
6	GenCap	Dana Barón, GenCap Advisor	dana.baronromero@un.org
7	IPPF	Clare Hollowell, Senior SGBV Advisor, IPPF Global Humanitarian Team,	chollowell@ippf.org
8	Organisation Intersex International Europe e.V (OII Europe)	Irene Kuzemko, Capacity & Community Building Officer of OII Europe	irene@oiieurope.org
9	Plan International	Keren Simons	keren.simons@plan-international.org
10	Save the Children	Claudia Guidarini, Gender and GBV Specialist for the Regional Response	claudia.guidarini@savethechildren.org
11		Betsabé Quintana Reyes, Safeguarding Advisor (Ukraine)	Betsabe.quintana@savethechildren.org
12	UNAIDS	Elena Kiryushina	kiryushinae@unaids.org
13	UNDP	Tetiana Grytsenko, Gender Specialist, Ukraine	tetiana.grytsenko@undp.org
14		Oxana Maciuca	oxana.maciuca@undp.org.
15		Olena Ursu, Democratic Governance Team Leader, Ukraine	Olena.ursu@undp.org
16	UNHCR	Caroline Dulin Brass, Senior Community-Based Protection Officer	dulin@unhcr.org
17	UNFPA	Gabriela Alvarez Minte Gender Regional Advisor	alvarezminte@unfpa.org
18	UNICEF	Sheeba Harma Regional Gender Adviser	shharma@unicef.org
19	UN Women (Co-Chair)	Ekram El-Huni, Regional Programme Coordinator & Humanitarian Advisor	ekram.elhuni@unwomen.org
20		Jo-Anne Bishop, Regional Strategic Planning and Coordination Specialist	Jo-anne.bishop@unwomen.org
21		Ceren Guven Gures, Programme Specialist	Ceren.gures@unwomen.org
22		Evghenia Hiora, Humanitarian Response Project Officer, Moldova	Evghenia.hiora@unwomen.org
23		Heba Zayyan, Programme Specialist, Moldova	Heba.zayyan@unwomen.org
24	WFP	Andrea Castorina, Head of Safeguards (MENA)	Andrea.castorina@wfp.org
25	WHO	Milena Selivanov, Project Support Officer	selivanovm@who.int
26		Isabel Yordi, Regional Advisor on Gender Equality	yordiaguirrei@who.int
27		Erin MacDonald, PSEA Ukraine Refugee Response	emacdonald@who.int
28		Carina Hickling PSEA Specialist, Poland	hicklingc@who.int
29	World Bank	Liat Biron, Consultant	liatbiron@gmail.com

30	Voice Amplified	Sharifa Abdul Aziz, GBViE Specialist	sharifa@voiceamplified.org