

## MOLDOVA: GENDER TASK FORCE MEETING

Meeting Details	
Date	19 December 2023
Time	11:00 – 12:30
Venue	Zoom
Chair/ co-chair	Evghenia Hiora (UN Women), Nina Lozinschi (Platform for Gender Equality)
Agenda	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 11.00 - 11.05: Welcome and agenda, announcement on the change of chair</li> <li>• 11.05 – 11.20: UNHCR Cash Policy Update and Q&amp;A</li> <li>• 11.20 – 11.50: Presentation of the Gender Accountability Framework Report for 2023 and Q&amp;A</li> <li>• 11:50 – 12:00: Updates from members:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Validation Workshop for Mapping of GBV Services in the Refugee Response</li> <li>• UN Women on GiHA trainings</li> </ul> </li> <li>• 12.00 – 12.10: AOB</li> </ul>	

Participants			
#	Name	Organization	Function
1	Nina Lozinschi	Platform for Gender Equality	Secretary
2	Evghenia Hiora	UN Women	Gender in Humanitarian Action Coordination Officer
3	Anatolii Oprea	UNICEF	Consultant
4	Nataliia Borshchevska	UN Volunteer Local Coordinator	Local Coordinator Ungheni
5	Olga Dymova	UN Volunteer Local Coordinator, Afina	Local Coordinator Cahul
6	Casey O’neill	CWS	Protection Program Manager

7	Sabine Ebner	UN Women	Program Analyst
8	Scarlett Hawkins	Norwegian Refugee Council	Protection from Violence Specialist
9	Marina Turcanu	UN WFP	CBT Associate
10	Oleksii Bodnia	OHCHR	Human Rights Officer
11	Martin Kunze	Youth One World	
12	Ines Arnautovic	DRC	Protection Advisor
13	Mariana Belvac	Ministerul Muncii și Protecției Sociale	
14	Galit Wolfensohn	UN Women	
15	Yigit Gurer	UNHCR	
16	Andrei Esanu		
17	Daniele Pedretti	Helpage	
18	Iryna Chumachenko	Tandemediation	
19	Oksana Khykul	UN Volunteer Local Coordinator	
20	Valentina Bodrug	Gender Centru	President
21	Jo Darouciche	Voice	

### Summary of discussions and agreements/ action items

Agenda/Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p><b>Welcome and agenda</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Nina Lozinschi</b> (Platform for Gender Equality) welcomed participants and introduced the agenda of the meeting. She also announced the change of chair of the GTF – Dominika Stojanoska will be stepping out handing over to Evghenia Hiora, Gender in Humanitarian Action Coordination Officer.</li> </ul>	

### UNHCR Cash Policy Update, Q&A

- **Yigit Gurur** (UNHCR) shared that UNHCR has been implementing CASH based intervention programs for Ukrainian refugees in Moldova since March 2022. The program will now be changed, starting from January 2024. New refugee arrivals in Moldova will receive an initial 2 months of cash assistance based on vulnerability criteria, which includes families with one or more dependents, single headed households, elderly, people with disabilities, and other people with vulnerabilities. If after the two months they encounter any bottle necks in achieving legal stay, they will have the opportunity for one-by-one assessments of their cases. Refugees should contact cash enrollment centers for necessarily counseling. After these two months, they must be able to demonstrate that they have obtained the most secure form of legal stay. Non-Ukrainian nationals will not be eligible for cash assistance unless they are family members of Ukrainian refugee and can demonstrate legal status. Moldovan citizens will not be able to receive cash assistance.

### Presentation of the Gender Accountability Framework Report for 2023

- **Galit Wolfensohn** (UN Women) presented the Gender Accountability Framework Report for 2023, which is a tool to track performance against global commitment to address gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls (GEEWG) in humanitarian and refugee settings. The objective of the report was to (1) review the performance of refugee response in Moldova against commitments to GEEWG, (2) identify and recommend ways to strengthen gender-responsiveness for 2024 refugee response plan (RRP), and (3) strengthen accountability across inter-agency coordination structure to advance GEEWG. The study took place July-December 2023, and consisted of a desk review of 100+ documents published between October 2022 and September 2023.
- The report review areas are (1) gender equality in the analysis, design and implementation of the RRP, (2) gender equality in the participation and leadership, and (3) gender equality within organizational practices. The report found that 88% of the criteria were either fully met or partially met, which show strong commitment to addressing gender issue throughout the response. Efforts of integrating GEEWS began early in the crisis and has increased over time.
- The report identified challenges and areas for improvement as there being a limited intersectionality and diversity analysis; limited reporting and analysis of SADD; practical barriers hindering participation of some local civil society organizations in decision making; limited participation of refugee women leaders in shaping decisions; at times, inadvertent exclusion of men and underrepresented groups from mainstream programs and services; lack of data on funding trends for gender mainstreaming; lack of gender capacity across sectors, uneven engagement in gender equality programming; and participants in Gender in Humanitarian Action (GiHA) trainings mostly women from majority groups.
- Select recommendations are to ensure that assessments analyse SADD and include gender and diversity analysis; incorporate an intersectional lens in sectoral and cross-sectoral planning; build on and document

<p>GiHA good practice; ensure sectors include and regularly report on gender and diversity considerations; create more opportunities for meaningful participation and decision making of smaller and specialized CSOs; create opportunities for peer-learning and networking among CSOs, including women’s organization and refugee women; introduce criteria for gender mainstreaming in funding applications to introduce Gender and Age Marker tracking mechanism; provide flexible funding opportunities for smaller local women’s CSOs and other interest groups; continue funding the Gender Task Force, as well as GiHA experts within the refugee coordination forum; continue investing in capacity building on gender equality and diversity issues; develop a joint actionable response-wide Gender Accountability Framework for Moldova.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Evghenia Hiora</b> (UN Women) informed that the report will be published on UN Women Moldova’s website in late December 2023 and will be shared within the task force once published.</li> <li>• <b>Nina Lozinschi</b> (Platform for Gender Equality) thanked for elaboration of the Gender Accountability Framework and highlighted the importance of the existence of a stand-alone Task Force working on gender equality in humanitarian and refugee settings. She has additionally underscored the importance of inclusion of civil society organizations in the TF from the very beginning of the crisis.</li> <li>• <b>Evghenia</b> highlighted how this will be a useful framework that needs to be built upon to see how we can continue to advance gender equality in refugee response, how we can improve where there is space for improvement, and how we can make sure that we meet this collective responsibility of advancement of gender equality in the humanitarian response alongside with the adequate funding for this work.</li> <li>• <b>Olga Dymova</b> (UN Volunteer Local Coordinator, Afina) on behalf of all UN Volunteer Local Coordinators thanked UN Women and GTF for the opportunity to be engaged in refugee response in Moldova and expressed hope that collaboration will continue in the future.</li> <li>• <b>Evghenia Hiora</b> (UN Women) thanked UN Volunteer Local Coordinators for their time., engagement and dedication, highlighting that promotion of women meaningful participation in decision-making is a priority for UN Women in humanitarian, development and peace settings.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Updates from members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Nina Lozinschi</b> (Platform for Gender Equality) informed that the members of the Platform for Gender Equality and GBV SWG will hold a validation workshop for the Report on Mapping of GBV Services on 28 December 2023. Members of the GTF are invited to join the workshop.</li> <li>• <b>Sabine Ebner</b> (UN Women) informed that the Gender Task Force organized two GiHA trainings with around 40 frontliners in the refugee response, with a focus on principles and tools for gender equality programming. Members from the TF also participated at the Global Refugee Forum, where Nina Lozinschi and Olga Dymova presented the Gender Task Force. During the forum, UN Women also hosted an event on looking at displacement through a gender lens with participation of GTF members. There was also a UN Women hosted event on women as agents of change together with Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund with participants from Moldova.</li> <li>• <b>Evghenia Hiora</b> (UN Women) reminded participants that everyone is welcome to share updates on how</li> </ul>	

<p>they work with women and girls or gender equality in the refugee response.</p>	
<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Evghenia Hiora</b> (UN Women) informed members that the TF will prepare an Annual Report on the activity of the group in 2023 and invited members to showcase their work on gender equality in refugee response through a survey that will be circulated shortly. Evghenia suggested to tentatively schedule the first meeting of the GTF for 9 February with more communication to follow through email. She also reminded members that they are welcome to suggest topics for the meeting agenda.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Material shared</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Presentation on Gender Accountability Framework Report 2023</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Gender Task Force Annual Review 2023 Survey</a></li> </ul>	