

## Gender-Based Violence Sub-Working Group Moldova

Meeting Details		
<b>Date</b>	31 October 2024	
<b>Time</b>	2:00 - 3:30 pm	
<b>Co-chairs and contact emails</b>	Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR - <a href="mailto:bordin@unhcr.org">bordin@unhcr.org</a> Jana Nagnitschenko, UNFPA- <a href="mailto:nagnitschenko@unfpa.org">nagnitschenko@unfpa.org</a>	
<b>Reporting</b>	UNFPA	
Agenda		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Introduction of members</li> <li>2. Presentation on the Development of Safe Shelter Services for GBV Survivors by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP)</li> <li>3. 16 Days of Activism 2024 campaign</li> <li>4. Update on 2025-2026 RRP</li> <li>5. Update on Consolidation of Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs) by Basic Needs Sub-Working Group</li> <li>6. Update on Sub-Working Group 2025 activities/framework</li> <li>7. Updates by members</li> </ol>		
Information collection and relevant links		
<p><u><a href="#">GBV SWG Google Drive</a></u>  <u><a href="#">Moldova: Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Sub-Sector Working Group Data Portal</a></u>  <u><a href="#">UNHCR GBV Safe Disclosure Package</a></u></p>		
Participants		
1. Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR	10. Adriana Procopciuc, HEKS/EPER	17. Liliana Istrate, ANPCV
2. Jana Nagnitschenko, UNFPA	11. Stefano Zanni, CUAMM UK	18. Ana Rimbu, Casa Marioarei
3. Petru Lupu, UNHCR	12. Veronica Pastela, ANPCV	19. Catarev Cristina, IGM
4. Nata Plugaru, UNFPA	13. Erhan Ion, ANPCV	20. Analia A. Restrepo - INTERSOS
5. Aliona Onofrei, HIAS	14. Milena Scobila, ANPCV	21. Viorelia Rusu, UN Women

6. Diana Miron, UNICEF	15. Mariia Korolchuk, HIAS	22. Ersilia Apreada, IOM
7. Elena Castravet, IOM	16. Lilia Ganțațuc, Commission for the	23. Natalia Stelea, UNHCR
8. Tatiana Ciobanu, UN Women	Coordination of Activities in the Field of	24. Oxana Buzovici, Union for Equity and Health
9. Aurelia Bulat, MLSP	Migration and Asylum	25. Olesea Cazacu, NCUM
		26. Valentina Bordian, UNICEF

### Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda Item	Discussion	Agreements/Actions
<p><b>Development of Safe Shelter Services for GBV Survivors by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (MLSP)</b></p> <p>Aurelia Bulat, MLSP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● MLSP's goal is to expand services available to survivors of GBV, including by establishing more shelters.</li> <li>● According to the Istanbul Convention, there should be a shelter space for every 10,000 people. With a population of about 2.6 million, the country needs to provide 260 shelter places. At the moment, there are 182 places, including centers for mothers with children located in Ungheni, Balți, Chisinau, Caușeni, Anenii Noi, Cahul, Hancesti and Drochia, which are funded by the government, meaning there is a gap of 78 spaces.</li> <li>● MLSP plans to strengthen the existing eight centers and build four new ones that will address this gap and cover key regions.</li> <li>● The approximate budget for this is 1 million EUR, including \$100,000 for unforeseen expenses.</li> <li>● Aligned to this infrastructural improvement, MLSP will provide training for social workers to enhance service quality, including through consistent and mentoring and coaching and develop and improve tools and guidance to ensure services meet quality standards. Furthermore, training for police is a priority. Capacity strengthening will better equip government workers to support survivors and victims in line with principles and prioritizing their safety.</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A significant gap is GBV data collection and information management as it relates to individual cases, in particular because of the cooperation with the police. Data available and related to the quality of services shows that shelters should be accessible and adapted to the different needs of survivors, and that this could be a potential barrier in terms of access to this service, in particular for groups such as persons with disabilities and mobility limitations, including older women. Furthermore, MLPS is planning to provide transportations for survivors to shelters, and to deliver services in local communities.</li> <li>● Another priority mentioned by MLSP is the development and scale up of economic empowerment initiatives to support the rehabilitation of and reduce risks for survivors and victims.</li> <li>● MLSP is making all efforts to meet European standards, and will continue thoroughly working on improving data collection and social services.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>16 Days of Activism 2024 campaign</b></p> <p>Jana Nagnitschenko, UNFPA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Jana highlighted the upcoming 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence, which will run from November 25 to December 10. This annual campaign, led by civil society organizations (CSOs), begins on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and concludes on Human Rights Day.</li> <li>● The United Nations supports this campaign through its "UNiTE to End Violence Against Women" initiative, emphasizing young women's leadership. Notably, this year marks the 25th anniversary of the UN General Assembly's designation of November 25 for this cause, and 2025 will mark 30 years since the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.</li> <li>● During this period, numerous activities will highlight prevention and response efforts for violence against women and girls. The UN, including agencies like UNHCR and UNFPA, will coordinate closely with UN Women, CSOs, and government agencies to align efforts across platforms. The call was made for participants to coordinate activities via the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) sub-working group to ensure unified support and coverage.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>16 Days of Activism 2024 campaign</b> Liliana Istrate, National Agency to Prevent and Combat Violence Against Women and Domestic VIOLENCE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The National Agency has taken over the mandate from the MLSP to coordinate activities for the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV campaign. As it's Agency's first year in this role, they are focusing on gathering and promoting information from all relevant partners rather than organizing specific activities themselves.</li> <li>• The Agency is collecting details through a matrix on planned activities from national and international partners, government bodies, civil society, and development organizations. An official request was sent to partners to submit information by <b>November 12</b>, to ensure all activities are included in a centralized visibility campaign.</li> <li>• The Agency will compile all activities and publish them on social media and other public platforms, highlighting each day's activities and aiming for visibility and engagement with the public and media. The Agency also encourages partners to complete a simple form to share their activity details, thus ensuring a comprehensive, well-promoted campaign.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GBV SWG co-chairs will circulate the matrix prepared by the National Agency for members to include information on their activities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Update on 2025-2026 RRP</b> Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activities have already been submitted by partners via ActivityInfo and will be reviewed by the GBV Working Group co-chairs.</li> <li>• The review process involves identifying any overlaps or adjustments needed based on needs and gaps. Partners will be contacted directly to discuss potential adjustments and reflect them on ActivityInfo.</li> <li>• For planning methodology, feedback is requested from partners on preferred formats (e.g., workshops or bilateral or tripartite meetings) to ensure efficiency and relevance. All activities and adjustments should be finalized by <b>November 26</b>, and the GBV Sub-sector Workplan will be presented at the Intersectoral Coordination Group (ISCG) meeting on November 28.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Co-chairs to contact partners to discuss activities submitted on ActivityInfo and review them, if necessary.</li> <li>• Co-chairs to finalize activities and prepare GBV Sub-Sector Workplan to be shared with GBV SWG for review.</li> <li>• To keep partners updated of RRP Planning process.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Update on Consolidation of Refugee Accommodation Centres (RACs)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consolidation Progress and Challenges: The implementation of the RAC Consolidation Strategy started in 2023, led by MLSP in coordination with UNHCR and partners. So far, 23 RACs were closed, out of 28 active RACs, and two are in the process of closing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide updates on the next GBV SWG meeting on the consolidation process.</li> </ul>

Natalia Stelea, Basic Needs Sub-Working Group

- Beneficiary Relocation and Special Needs: 97% of residents were relocated to other RACs. 212 individuals are receiving rental assistance, 157 moved to private housing, and others left Moldova. For certain RACs, relocation is complex because some families are large.
- Support for cases at risk: Among the RACs' residents, 275 are older people, 95 are people with disabilities, and 548 are children, including 54 aged 0-2 years. RACs are equipped with case managers and additional resources, like Child Protection services and Roma Mediators, to address specific needs.
- A question was raised about childcare conditions and support for Ukrainian women returning to Moldova with health complications due to domestic violence. Some RACs host young children and pregnant women, but there is often a need to coordinate and request additional services from actors outside of the RAC.
- ACTED conducts weekly visits to RACs to monitor needs and infrastructural gaps that could result in risks, including related to GBV, and refers cases to services. IOM conducts informational campaigns and provides support to adult and child refugees with health issues.
- Communication between RAC managers and residents are usually smooth and collaborative, allowing needs to be identified and addressed. .
- A recent exercise was conducted to assess RAC's living conditions, sustainability and protection gaps, aiming at guiding future closures. The RAC consolidation process may slow down over winter to avoid increasing vulnerabilities, resuming in spring.

<p><b>Updates by members</b> Stefano Zanni - CUAMM UK</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● CUAMM UK has been in Moldova since 2022 focusing on primary healthcare and health awareness, in particular for vulnerable groups.</li> <li>● Key activities include: working with second-level hospitals and neonatal stabilization, distribution of hygiene kits in Cahul, Soroca and Chisinau, implementation of 12 mental health and psychosocial support events.</li> <li>● A training is planned to take place in January 2025 for healthcare workers on GBV and health, and will potentially include topics related to health needs of sex workers, and GBV and HIV.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Co-chairs to share survey with GBV SWG for their input and feedback on topics covered in the training, and to circulate the training opportunity, planned for early 2025.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Update on Sub-Working Group 2025 activities/framework</b>  Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR Jana Nagnitschenko, UNFPA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● For 2025, the GBV SWG plans to strengthen localization through the participation of the government, including MLSP and the National Agency to Combat and Prevent Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence as co-chairs along with UNHCR and UNFPA.</li> <li>● The GBV SWG is also planning to launch a call for a WLO to be co-chair in 2025, approach which is part of the Refugee Response Plan of transition and meaningful integration of refugee issues into national coordination spaces.</li> </ul>	
<b>Next GBV SWG meeting</b>		
<p><b>Date &amp; Time</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tentatively scheduled for December. Details to be confirmed by email.</li> </ul>	