

## MOLDOVA: GENDER TASK FORCE MEETING

<b>Meeting Details</b>	
Date	1 April 2022 Next meeting on 8 April 2022 – Interpretation in Romanian and Russian will be assured
Time	10:00 – 11:30
Venue	Zoom
Chair	Ms. Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women), Ms. Collen Roberts (UNCHR)
<b>Agenda</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalizing the ToR</li> <li>• Agree on the timeline for the development of the GTF Workplan</li> <li>• Needs Assessment and overview from GE perspective</li> <li>• RACs and different needs of women/men/girls/boys – open conversation and reflection on different visits</li> <li>• AOB</li> </ul>	

<b>Participants</b>			
#	Name	Organization	Function
1	Colleen Roberts	UNHCR	Gender-Based Violence Officer
2	Dominika Stojanoska	UN Women	Country Representative
3	Evghenia Hiora	UN Women	Administrative Associate
4	Nighina Azizov	UN Women	Programme Analyst
5	Svetlana Andries	Un Women	Programme Specialist
6	Cristina Lesnic	UN Women	Lead Gender Expert
7	Jo-Anne Bishop	UN Women Regional Office	Coordination Specialist, UN Women ECAR RO
8	Marina Buruiana	Women Law Centre	Executive Director
9	Svetlana Mirca	State Chancellery	Lead Consultant in Direction of Coordination for Human Rights and Social Dialogue

10	Elena Sirbu	Roma Women Platform "ROMNI"	Director
11	Becky Higgins	Plan International	Deployable Information Management Specialist
12	Dina Ciubotaru	HelpAge International	Programmes Coordinator
13	Valentina Bodrug Lungu	Gender-Centru	President
14	Nina Lozinschi	Gender Equality Platform	General Secretary of the Platform
15	Lilia Pascal	Department of Policies for Ensuring Equality between Women and Men, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection	Head of Department
16	Petru Lupu	Department of Policies for Ensuring Equality between Women and Men, Ministry of Labor and Social Protection	Senior Consultant
17	Irina Luncasu	CALM	
18	Mihaela Iurasco	"TEKEDO" NGO (Protection)	
19	Dina Cibotaru	Help Age International	
20	Natalia Azmanova		

### Summary of discussions and agreements/ action items

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<b>Opening remarks</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dominika Stojanoska</b> (UN Women): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mentioned that the first meeting was chaired by Flora Macura and Constanze Quosh. Dominika will now take over from Flora.</li> <li>• presented the agenda for the meeting.</li> <li>• asked new members to present themselves.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Mihaela Iurasco</b> and <b>Dina Cibotaru</b> presented themselves.</li> <li>• <b>Dominika Stojanoska</b> (UN Women) emphasized that this group was created to discuss refugee response issues from the gender perspective and then convey them to the working groups under the inter-agency refugee response.</li> </ul>	
<b>Finalizing the ToR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dominika Stojanoska</b> (UN Women) asked if there were any comments or suggestions to the ToR for the GTF. ToR were unanimously accepted without comments.</li> </ul>	
<b>Agree on the timeline for the development of the GTF Workplan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dominika Stojanoska</b> (UN Women) suggested to discuss the GTF work plan during the next 2</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft the GTF workplan and</li> </ul>

<p>meetings and complete it. The WP will be aligned to the ToR and draft will be shared for all members to review and provide additional suggestions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mihaela Iurasco</b> asked if was possible to integrate UN Women training to the UNICEF course on Humanitarian Action. Dominika explained that UN Women training focuses on gender aspects in humanitarian action across all sectors, in line with IASC Handbook. However, it can be discussed with UNICEF whether a session on GM in protection and education.</li> <li>• <b>Colleen Roberts</b> (UNHCR) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mentioned that UNHCR could certainly link up to support a gender mainstreaming in humanitarian response workshop.</li> <li>• suggested to prepare a draft work plan together with UN Women, then share and discuss it with the GFT members.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Dominika Stojanoska</b> (UN Women) emphasized that the work plan has to be connected to the overall refugee response plan.</li> </ul>	<p>share it with members</p>
<p><b>Needs Assessment and overview from GE perspective</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dominika Stojanoska</b> (UN Women) asked if there were any planned or ongoing assessments registered for review. <b>Colleen Roberts</b> informed that there is an assessment with local women organisations by Voice. The assessment report may be shared with GTF. In addition, more information will be shared on the Multisectoral Needs Assessment to be carried out with support from UNHCR.</li> <li>• <b>Elena Sirbu</b> (Roma Women Platform "ROMNI") mentioned that they prepare an assessment and will share it for review shortly.</li> <li>• <b>Dominika Stojanoska</b> (UN Women): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• emphasized that it is important to plan these reviews in advance to be able to provide them in due time.</li> <li>• mentioned that the results of the complete Rapid Gender Assessment will be presented at the next meeting.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Dina Cibotaru</b> (Help Age International) mentioned that they plan to do a rapid needs assessment, but do not yet know when. They will inform additionally.</li> <li>• <b>Dominika Stojanoska</b> (UN Women) checked if members received the list of multi-sectoral working groups.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Share assessment report by Voice</li> </ul>
<p><b>RACs and different needs of women/ men/ girls/ boys – open conversation and reflection on different visits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mariana Buruiana</b> (Women Law Center) thanked for the creation of this group. More</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To invite a representative from the National Agency</li> </ul>

information will be shared once the situation evolves. This GTF is a great platform to make sure that we do not duplicate efforts. Exchange of know-how and best practices on work with the focus groups (children, youth, people with disabilities, elderly, women and girls with multiple vulnerabilities) is needed.

- **Nina Lozinschi (Gender Center):**
  - mentioned that the need for hygienic products for women, girls and infants increased, as well as for baby food. They receive multiple requests for accommodation and adaptation thereof. It is hard to find accommodation for families that have decided to integrate into the local labor market and education system. Often, they have pets. Refugees travel in groups and want to be hosted together.
  - informed that a needs assessment with the NGOs that provide services to refugees in different regions has been carried out. The needs vary depending on the region, but hygienic items and household maintenance chemicals remain essential. Accommodation facilities are often not tailored to the needs of refugees. Cash has been provided on certain occasions. It is important not to make refugees dependent on assistance. They may procure food and other items themselves depending on their preferences and priorities.
- **Valentina Bodrug Lungu (Gender-Centru)** emphasized that all their resources and efforts were directed to emergency refugee response. The resources are now coming to end, Gender Center does not have any funds for the development of future projects and they have no secured projects for future. A new vision and a new concept for the future, alongside with the necessary funding is needed. If no timely and strategic steps are taken, this will lead to the destruction of the civil society.
- **Lilia Pascal (Ministry of Labor and Social Protection):**
  - mentioned that she would be interested to see the workplans of other working groups examined from the gender perspective to assure gender mainstreaming in other sectors.
  - explained that accommodation in many cases is a continuous challenge for the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection responsible for the provision of overall assistance to refugees (accommodation, meals, hygienic products, referrals for other services). Indeed, some centers are suggested for closure for not meeting the norms of decent accommodation.
  - informed that the Ministry works on social integration and integration into the labor

- on Social Protection
- To flag at the inter-agency meeting the importance of regular participation in the GTF
  - GTF members to join other working groups
  - To send Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund Application Guide

market of refugees. More specialized approach to assistance to refugees remains a challenge for the Ministry.

- informed that the IOM works for the provision of cash and more tailored accommodation for refugees with special needs (large families, families with children, families with pets, etc.).
- mentioned that the Ministry established an agreement with the World Food Programme to provide financial support to refugees and hosting families who hosted more than 2 refugees for more than 1 week. Information has already been made public and can be received from the Single Emergency Management Center and the websites of the Ministry and WFP.
- suggested to invite a representative from the National Agency on Social Protection to make part of the GTF to provide the group with more detailed information on assistance to refugees and participate in discussions of concrete projects for refugees to be implemented in collaboration with the Ministry.
- **Mariana Buruiana** (Women Law Center) mentioned that they have not yet received from the Fiscal Office clarifications on taxation of cash assistance to refugees and asked if any other organisation has received them.
- **Cristina Lesnic** (Gender Expert):
  - suggested to agree on the notion to be used for people fleeing from Ukraine. Refugee is a legal status of a person, who has been examined and granted the status of refugee. People, who apply for asylum are called asylum seekers. People fleeing from Ukraine are in their majority people admitted for humanitarian aid, not refugees. It is important that all agencies and government institutions use the same notions and collect disaggregated data based on them.
  - mentioned that it is necessary to start shifting from mapping of the urgent refugee needs to analysis of major tendencies as follows:
  - documentation of Ukrainian refugees - creation of uniform documentation procedures, issue of documents, efficient and coordinated provision of standardized, structured and trusted information.
  - education – refugees are not aware that Ukrainian diplomas are recognized in Moldova, that it is possible to study in Russian language. There is a major risk of influx of refugees to Chisinau in September that needs to be anticipated via efficient collaboration with the LPA and District Councils and effective information campaigns

targeted at refugee families with children.

- people with disabilities – special attention needs to be provided to people diabetes, heart diseases, epilepsy, other chronic diseases that require continuous treatment.
- credibility of information placed for refugees needs to be carefully checked by state institutions to mitigate the risk of human being trafficking, abuse and disinformation.
- **Dominika Stojanoska** (UN Women) suggested to participate in the various sector working groups and channel the respective information there for further action.
- **Elena Sirbu** (Roma Women Platform "ROMNI"): mentioned that
  - they represent the single center for refugee Roma people in Chisinau, currently hosting 130 persons, 80% of which are women and children.
  - Roma people have problems receiving humanitarian aid as many of them are illiterate, some do not have gadgets to apply for humanitarian aid, some of them do not receive information.
  - they need seasonal clothing and footwear.
  - children do not have breakfast, work is done to assure it. Sometimes there are problems with digestion in children.
  - young girls do not participate in online lessons, they do not know how to continue.
  - many women want to get employed to stay close to their husbands, some of them want to re-specialize.
  - some women return to Ukraine not having enough information about and access to humanitarian aid.
  - Roma women need psychological support, they are not very open and sincere when talking to people not speaking their language.
- **Colleen Robert** (UNHCR):
  - explained that the scope of this group is not to collect the information and channel it to the respective groups. Everyone has the right to participate in every working group. Members can directly address them in the respective groups. The scope of this task force is to make sure that gender perspective is integrated into the actions of these other groups.
  - mentioned that UNHCR is the main provider of cash assistance to refugees so far and that everyone can share the UNHCR [website](#) information to see how to access assistance.
- **Dominika Stojanoska** (UN Women):

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mentioned that at this meeting GTF representatives of the sector working groups are not present, which is a pity, because some questions could have been already answered.</li> <li>• emphasized that it is important for this group that the voices of women organisations from Moldova are heard, channeled and addressed. Every Monday there is a meeting of the multi-sectoral working group and GTF will report to this meeting the most important issues identified. At the same, it is very important for the GTF members to join and participate in the relevant working groups.</li> <li>• suggested to discuss next time how to address issues raised at this meeting and channeled to the sectoral working groups – accommodation, information, education, etc.</li> <li>• suggested this group to focus on action plans of GTF and other working groups to make sure that gender perspective is integrated into them.</li> <li>• suggested to focus on development project that will tackle the consequences of refugee crisis, for example increased incidence of domestic violence, etc.</li> <li>• <b>Svetlana Andries (UN Women):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mentioned that refugee mapping for North region is ready and available.</li> <li>• informed that UN Women managed to secure some funding for women CSOs from Women Peace Humanitarian Fund. There will be two direct partner agreements with Women Law Center and La Strada. In a week time, there will be 2 more direct partner agreements signed, CSOs being identified based on needs assessment provided by the government. In two weeks from now UN Women will launch an open competition for CSOs willing to participate. Amounts may vary from 50.000 to 200.000 USD. Application guide will be shared. Best is to apply in consortiums or partnerships. Total grants amount is 7million Euro for both Ukraine and Moldova.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• suggested to present a brief overview of what has been discussed in multi-sectoral group in the beginning of the next meeting, before the members join and fully integrate into those groups.</li> <li>• informed that there will be a transition of chairing and co-chairing of this group. UNCHR will step out of co-chairing of this group. CSOs are invited to co-chair this group. UN Women will step away from PSEA working group.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow up on UNICEF training</li> <li>• Share draft work plan for GTF</li> <li>• Share MoM with GTF and other working groups</li> </ul>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• suggested to convey information to specific working groups and try to get answers to issues raised today.</li></ul>	
<p><b>Suggestions for the Next Meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discuss draft GTF work plan</li><li>• Update from inter-agency working group</li><li>• Update on the Rapid Gender Assessment</li></ul>	

The next meeting scheduled for 8 April 2022 from 10:00 -11:30 in [Zoom](#).