




UKRAINE REFUGEE RESPONSE
Regional Sub-Working Group on Gender-Based Violence (SWG GBV)
Meeting Minutes

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| Meeting objective: | Discuss the pertinent gender-based violence (GBV) issues at the regional level and the work of GBV coordination structures established at the field level in Hungary, Moldova Poland, Romania and Slovakia. |
| Time & location: | 30 May 2022, at 15:00-16:15, online |
| Participants (in order of appearance): | <p>Vera Dragovic, UNHCR Alisar Elias, UNHCR Olga Vorontsova-Mykhailova, UNHCR Ekram Elhuni, UN Women Fatima Wahaidy, UNFPA (Guest) Heidi Lehmann, HIAS Sharifa Abdulaziz, VOICE Yiftach Millo, HIAS June Munala, UNHCR Mary Louise O'Shea, IOM Maria Cabanas, HIAS Enrique Torrella, HIAS Margaret Orunya Lamunu, WHO Sandra Harlass, UNHCR Colleen Roberts, UNHCR Brennan Banks, HIAS Leah Hctor, Center for Reproductive Rights Gabriela Alvarez Minte, UNFPA Agnes Kwoba Olusese, IOM Silvia Sander, UNHCR Clare Hollowell, IPPF Elina Sarantou, HIAS Kelly Joseph, VOICE Loise Dai Rocheteau, ICVA Manuela Moy, UNHCR Zsofia Balogh, PATENT Association</p> |

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| | <p>Julduz Akisheva, UNODC Emilie Page, UNHCR</p> |
| Agenda: | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introductions 2. UNHCR UNFPA GBV Safety Audits – <i>UNHCR and UNFPA</i> 3. GBV needs assessments (Ukraine and region) - <i>VOICE Amplified</i> 4. GBV Mission Debrief from Slovakia (UNHCR) 5. ToRs for the GBV SWG 6. AOB |
| AGENDA POINT | DISCUSSION |
| 1) Introduction | Tour de table |
| 2) UNHCR UNFPA GBV Safety Audits – <i>UNHCR and UNFPA</i> | <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Safety%20Audit%20Overview%20Moldova_1</p> </div> <p>UNHCR & UNFPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just finished conducting safety audits; will take a few weeks to go through them and finalize the findings. • GBV safety audit is a mainstreaming tool for identifying GBV risks and responding to them. • It is an ongoing conversation with the community. Can inform the broader response; emphasis is on monitoring; looking at identifying the gaps and informing the new programming cycle. • Safety audit looked at specific risks of accommodation, transport and cash, as well as risks related to programming (which should be evidence-informed). Hoping to contextualize and adapt the tools to the context in Moldova in the aftermath. • Will see a bit of a shift in the GBV approach, which has thus far been a bit <i>ad hoc</i>, and building a more regular programming. Will focus on specific sites, and work with specific groups, including within the host community. • Safety audits should not merely be coordinated within the GBV SWG but in an inter-sectoral manner. • Safety Audit Toolkit Guidance has been rolled out and will be continuously updated. • Ensured a safe and ethical approach during the audit; FGDs were AGD-sensitive. • Will work together with other sector colleagues to make sure that they make the best use of the results of the safety audit. • UNICEF is also already rolling out a safety audit using the tool, focusing on adolescents, etc., which is a great example of interagency work. |

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| <p>3) GBV needs assessments (Ukraine and region) - <i>VOICE Amplified</i></p> | <div style="text-align: center;">  PPT%20Deck%20May%2027%202022%20Pr </div> <p>VOICE Amplified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report by VOICE: Waiting for the Sky to Close: The Unprecedented Crisis Facing Women and Girls Fleeing Ukraine , was supported by HIAS. • The Report is the result of key informant interviews, FGDs and observations. In total, 167 Ukrainian women were interviewed. • It contains a regional report and different reports for separate countries (Ukraine and neighbouring countries - Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova). • (In response to questions from WHO & UN Women: The survey/Report focused on the displaced population primarily, and not on governments. VOICE is not opposed to presenting the findings to governments and continuing assessments like these, as the situation changes. Report findings were validated with the local organizations. Host governments were not a part of this process due to limitations and the different focus. • Validation was done for the whole draft Report by VOICE’s partners, who felt that it was very reflective. In terms of recommendations, they are specifically focused on the local agenda since it is under-resourced. <p>HIAS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working in 17 countries; supported the above assessment in partnership with VOICE in order to prioritise the voice of victims and survivors. • Delighted that the Regional GBV SWG let us have this space. Six HIAS colleagues joined in the meeting today, in expectation of scaling up HIAS’ GBV programming. • The Ukraine response is also an opportunity for GBV partners to realize how quickly we can go into the field and establish implementing standards that get us closer to safety and security for women and girls and finding ways to engage equitably and rapidly with local women’s organizations. • HIAS would welcome an opportunity to dialogue with the governments, maybe in cooperation with the UN agencies, and close some of the gaps outlined in the VOICE Report. It would be challenging for any government, though, to meet the needs of the GBV situation. |
| <p>4) GBV Mission Debrief from Slovakia (UNHCR)</p> | <div style="text-align: center;">  Regional%20GBV%20SWG%2030052022.pp </div> <p>UNHCR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 460,000 refugees have thus far entered Slovakia. 80% are women and children. A good number of adolescent girls and young boys; also disabled persons. • One of the big concerns in Slovakia is that GBV is a very invisible feature. Concerns with transport facilities and informal accommodation. • Limited coordination at national level in terms of specialized GBV services; lack of viable GBV referral pathways, owing to overwhelming situation. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges in key specialized services: health and MHPSS, after-care, justice, etc.; require more closer understanding and prioritization of needs. • Key lessons: 1) need to strengthen referral processes, since some actors were reluctant to be part of them; so far established for three locations near the border points. 2) need to help build the capacity of GBV actors, including the national capacities. • As a strategy, UNHCR established a small task group to identify some of the key players in the GBV arena and managed to bring some of them on board. Biggest breakthrough was getting the MoI/Border Police in Slovakia to undergo training and share their experiences with UNHCR during the training. • Another important lesson is to keep bringing the voices of women and girls into the response, to ensure translation, incorporate their feedback, etc. In Slovakia, there are very active local women’s organizations who are few but strong. Including them, especially those refugee-led ones, is paramount. • Remaining challenges in providing safe spaces in many locations. Outreach therefore continues to be a priority, along with consultations with the communities. <p>UNODC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ready to team up with UNHCR/other agencies in training of law enforcement and justice practitioners in handling GBV cases. |
| 5) AOB | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional GBV SWG meetings will be extended to last 1 hr and 15 min. • Next meeting will take place on 21 June starting at 3 PM. (meeting LINK) |

| No. | Action points | FP | Status |
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| 1. | Members to consider joining hands with UNODC in GBV trainings for law enforcement and justice practitioners. | GBV SWG member organisations | ongoing |
| 2. | Members to provide any last comments/inputs to Regional GBV SWG ToRs , if any, by 13 June. | Olga Vorontsova-Mykhailova, Caroline Dulin Brass | ongoing |