

Gender-Based Violence Sub-Working Group Moldova

Meeting Details		
Date	22 June 2023	
Time	2:00 pm – 3:30 p.m.	
Chair	Vanessa Bordin- GBV Officer, UNHCR Celine Brixander- Information and Reporting Analyst for Humanitarian Response, UNFPA	
Reporting	UNFPA	
Email	bordin@unhcr.org ; brixander@unfpa.org	
Agenda		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Welcome and introductions ➤ Update on contingency plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ GBV SWG and MHPSS Technical Reference Group GBV/MHPSS training package. ○ Mobile service mapping. ➤ Upcoming trainings and sessions. ➤ Coaching sessions by the GBV SWG (localization). ➤ Winterization plan. ➤ 2023 GBV Safety Audit. ➤ GBV SWG information campaign: radio spots focusing on online violence. ➤ Update by IOM: GBV prevention activities with refugees. 		
Information collection and relevant links		
Link to the GBV SWG google drive: https://drive.google.com/drive/u/2/folders/1sEn_M8X-OG1Nzy9-KLIDzvS4tMkwulOu Link to the GBV SWG on the UNHCR data portal: https://data.unhcr.org/en/working-group/337?sv=0&geo=680 Link to the GBV SWG Presentations from session on Responding to needs of people who engage in the sell or exchange of sex in humanitarian settings: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Lxvwtkeh1FmjrfKoglpkLJqXzoms6b2O?usp=sharing		
Participants		
1. Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR	9. Daniela David, UN Women	18. Stef Purski, Plan International
2. Petru Lupu, UNHCR	10. Elena Castravet, IOM	19. Svetlana Albina, UN Women
3. Tatiana Budu, UNFPA	11. Ersilia Apreda, IOM	20. Svetlana Moisa, Voice
4. Celine Brixander, UNFPA	12. Ina Rusu, ADRA	21. Tania Chebac, CDA

5. Olga Morozan, Pestalozzi Children's Foundation	13. Martina Bogdeva, UNHCR	22. Tatiana, CRT Dacia
6. Alina Busila, UN WFP	14. Maura Reap, WHO	23. Valentina Bodrug-Lunga, Gender Centru
7. Andriana Zaslavet, RCTV Memoria	15. Ludmila Popovici, RCTV Memoria	24. Vitalie Frecauteanu, UNDP
8. Casey O'Neill, CWS	16. Natalia Griu, UNFPA	25. Dumitru Drumea, Speranta 87
	17. Sergiu Dimitriev, ACTED	

Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda Item	Discussion	Agreements/Actions
Welcome and introduction	<p>Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR, welcomed the participants of the GBV SWG meeting and gave the floor to a new GBV SWG co-chair from UNFPA Ms Celine Brixander.</p> <p>Celine Brixander, UNFPA, introduced herself and informed the participants that she was replacing Fatima Alwahaidy as a new GBV Program coordinator and GBV SWG co-chair.</p>	
Update on GBV sector contingency plan	<p>Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR, stated that in case of the activation of the contingency plan it was important to be coordinated and to have trained specialists and people providing services, as well as to provide the response to the basic needs and identify the people in need of protection services in line with the survivor-centred approach and refer them very effectively and quickly, so that they could access the services.</p> <p>Maura Reap, WHO, informed that as part of the contingency plan, the GBV Sub-Working Group and the MHPSS Technical Reference Group are developing a two-hour GBV/MHPSS training package to be rolled out for frontliners. The training, based on survivor-centred approach, will support frontline workers to support GBV disclosures and safely refer them to other services.</p>	- Share final GBV/MHPSS training package with the GBV SWG once finalized.
Mobile service mapping	<p>Celine Brixander, UNFPA, reminded about the Mobile Service Mapping Tool and requested the organisations to provide information about their mobile services, including location and services provided. The mapping exercise aims to fill an information gap about mobile units providing GBV support services, and is a critical part of the</p>	

	<p>contingency plan. A similar exercise was conducted in 2022, and members are encouraged to update their information for 2023.</p> <p>Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR, underlined the importance of mapping of services including mobile services. It was very important to know who was doing what in order to work in a coordinated manner and specifically in case of activation of the contingency plan.</p>	
<p>Conducted and planned trainings</p>	<p>Casey O’Neill, CWS, mentioned that they created an adaptable, customizable training for trainers for partners based on the GBV Pocket Guide in order to be able to identify, or realize that somebody was in a domestic violence situation, and refer the survivors according to the referral pathways. The first training conducted for 25-30 persons was successful and the participants were provided with materials. After the training one of the partners was able to identify the case of GBV and provided referral for a GBV survivor. The training was also adapted for Roma partners.</p> <p>Ersilia Apreda, IOM, informed that IOM conducted training sessions with the GBV pocket guide covering both banks in Moldova. It was difficult to conduct sessions for non-specialized staff and it would be nice if they were more interactive. The advice was that the trainers were experienced case managers who would be able to understand the nuances of cases and correctly implement a survivor centred-approach, otherwise we could cause harm.</p> <p>Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR, mentioned that on 15 June, a session on responding to the needs of persons engaged in the sale or exchange of sex and humanitarian settings was organized and coordinated by the GBV Sub-Working Group and UNAIDS in collaboration with the Public Health Centre of Ukraine, Legal Life Ukraine, and Union, Act for Involvement and Alliance for Public Health, organizations from Moldova covering the north, south and Transnistria. Legal Life Ukraine on , indicated that they conducted an assessment which showed that 11% of interviewed women started engaging in sex work because of lack of livelihoods alternatives due to the war, and 12% were sex workers in the past and had to return to it for the same reasons. the general objective of the session was to present on the protection and health response in place for sex workers and to understand the gaps and opportunities for collaboration to address gaps and risks, in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GBV SWG to share the link to presentations carried out a part of the session on responding to the needs of persons who engage in the sale and exchange of sex in humanitarian settings. - GBV SWG to share the information on domestic violence and mandatory reporting to take place on 24 July. - GBV SWG to share email with more details and agenda of the GBV mainstreaming training to take place on 13 July.

particular those related to protection since the health response is well established and accessible. The link to all the presentations of the session will be shared with the GBV SWG.

Celine Brixander, UNFPA, informed about the upcoming GBV mainstreaming training targeting different sectors to reduce risks and exposure to GBV, improve safety and to ensure that all partners know how to safely handle GBV cases and were aware of the referral pathways.

Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR, stated that on 24 July a training on domestic violence and mandatory reporting will be carried out by research from the Mandatory Reporting is Not Neutral project, from the United States. The objective of the session is to discuss issues around domestic violence focused on the harm perpetrated against the survivor both by the harm-doer themselves and by not respecting the wishes of the survivor of not reporting the incident to the police. More information on the training would be shared by email soon.

Stéf Pruski, Plan International, mentioned that men in Ukraine were affected by the war in different ways, in particular those who returned from frontline with traumas, which is also resulting in an increase in the incidence of intimate partner violence. There is a need to work with both women and men to address these issues and prevent harm.

Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR, agreed that such cases were very common in situations of displacement, trauma and there was a need for a more comprehensive approach, not only focusing on women.

Dumitru Drumea, Speranta 87, emphasized the consequences of war on people's psychological health, in particular post-traumatic stress disorder and mentioned that Speranta 87 is working on a project under to address that.

Ersilia Apreda, IOM, proposed to have a joint discussion with Ukrainian partners and see if they had a specialized program for veterans.

	<p>Ludmila Popovici, RCTV Memoria, stated that they worked at Memoria for a long time (about 23 years) with victims of torture. They worked a lot on prevention of gender-based violence and domestic violence and such families, men with PTSD. Memoria was going to provide training for members of multidisciplinary teams in summer. The training sessions planned to be arranged for NGOs working with victims of gender-based violence, and Ukrainian refugees, and for administrative staff - leaders of organizations.</p> <p>Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR, thanked the presenters for provided information, mentioning that such platforms provide new opportunities for collaboration and new ideas, and solutions how to address those issues.</p>	
<p>Coaching sessions by the GBV SWG (localization)</p>	<p>Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR, emphasized that GBV coaching sessions were an initiative of the GBV SWG under the localization strategy. Experience showed that it could be very productive to have more individual sessions with organizations that didn't necessarily work with GBV, but which have a relation of trust with the community, which and to which the survivors of different types of violence approached whenever they had an issue. During the sessions, the information on the survivor-centred approach and steps to be taken to be provided. It was important to discuss and to understand the issues and the main gaps they faced that could be addressed and the ways forward. The sessions were planned throughout Moldova.</p> <p>Regarding training, there would be organised a few trainings until the end of the year in different locations in Moldova, including south and north. The training calendar to be shared in the next email.</p>	<p>- GBV SWG to share Kobo Form so that organizations can share with other partners and indicate their interest to have these sessions.</p> <p>- Share calendar with trainings planned until December 2023.</p>
<p>Winterization plan</p>	<p>Celine Brixander, UNFPA, emphasized the importance of preparations for the winter season to meet refugees' needs, and for that it was established a Winterization Task-Force for winterization planning. Cash-based interventions to cover refugees' needs would be prioritized. The winter needs assessment based on the data collection will be conducted in July in order to determine the sector's response. In August, a winterization workshop with wider refugee coordination community would be held to go through the winterization strategy and discuss the final adjustments needed.</p>	<p>- GBV Sector consultation planned to be held in July. GBV SWG members to be informed accordingly.</p>

<p>2023 GBV Safety Audit</p>	<p>Celine Brixander, UNFPA, informed about GBV safety audit which is in the planning phase and is aimed to assess GBV risks and identify actions for different actors and sectors to reduce and mitigate GBV risks. The audit would be conducted in refugee accommodation centres (RACs) and host communities throughout Moldova, covering different regions. The exercise will in particular assess GBV risks for people with disabilities, adolescent boys and girls, and will cover technology-facilitated GBV and online safety risks, as well as potential GBV risks associated with temporary protection. The methodology would include safety walks, focus group discussions in line with an age, gender and diversity approach as well as key informant interviews with service providers and key organizations, including those working with groups at heightened risk, such as LGBTIQ+ persons and persons who engage in the sale and exchange of sex. After findings are analysed and a report is drafted, a validation workshop will be conducted.</p> <p>Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR, added that the risks of online sexual harassment in private accommodations will be also considered, in particular given reported cases of exchange of sex for accommodation. It has been difficult to properly respond to such cases, but hopefully the safety audit will shed more light on that.</p>	<p>- Once activities are conducted, IOM and UNHCR to brief the GBV SWG on findings, challenges, lessons learnt and opportunities for working with refugee women to prevent and mitigate GBV risks.</p>
<p>IOM and GBV Sub-Working Group GBV activities with refugee women</p>	<p>Ersilia Apreda, IOM, informed about the planned activity to support women's empowerment and to arrange sessions in different locations in Moldova to encourage women's active participation. The activities would be conducted in collaboration with UNHCR community centres. Among other issues, the activities would be focused on raising awareness and providing information on technology-facilitated GBV and learning how to identify such issues, risks and mitigation measures. More information on the activity would be shared with interested parties.</p> <p>Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR, mentioned topic and need to inform women about available resources and services, and indicated that Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and unequal power relations will be the basis for the sessions conducted with the refugees.</p>	<p>- Radio spots to be widely circulated with finished.</p>
<p>GBV SWG information campaign</p>	<p>Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR, provided an overview on the GBV campaign conducted in Moldova as of November 2022 and last updates, in particular developing two radio spots</p>	

	<p>with a focus on raising awareness about opportunities that seem “too good to be true” and how these can result in increased GBV risks, in particular for women and adolescent girls, including of online sexual harassment. The aim of the radio spots is to raise awareness to be attentive for these situations, and reach out the Greenline for support. The GBV Sub-Working Group will provide the Greenline with a script on how to handle these cases, and to which services they can be referred, including MHPSS.</p>	
<p>Final remarks</p>	<p>Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR, said that UNHCR would follow up and try to organize a session with colleagues in Ukraine to understand how we can collaborate on expanding the discussion on the impact of trauma and war on the safety of women and what coordinated actions can be taken to start addressing the issue.</p>	