

## Gender-Based Violence Sub-Working Group (SWG) Moldova

Meeting Details		
<b>Date</b>	27 July 2023	
<b>Time</b>	2:00 – 3:30 p.m.	
<b>Chair</b>	Vanessa Bordin - GBV Officer, UNHCR Celine Brixander - Information and Reporting Analyst for Humanitarian Response, UNFPA	
<b>Reporting</b>	UNFPA	
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:bordin@unhcr.org">bordin@unhcr.org</a> ; <a href="mailto:brixander@unfpa.org">brixander@unfpa.org</a>	
Agenda		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Welcome and introductions.</li> <li>➤ Review of GBV SWG 2023 Workplan.</li> <li>➤ Conducted and upcoming trainings.</li> <li>➤ Update on RACs (consolidation and informal RACs).</li> <li>➤ Next meeting: GBV AoR and GBV Response in Ukraine.</li> <li>➤ Updates by partners.</li> </ul>		
Information collection and relevant links		
Link to the GBV SWG Referral Pathways: <a href="https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1UveFlx2orDWLCLWT0dAot3FXVPacjNt8">https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1UveFlx2orDWLCLWT0dAot3FXVPacjNt8</a>		
Link to the GBV SWG on the UNHCR data portal: <a href="https://data.unhcr.org/en/working-group/337?sv=0&amp;geo=680">https://data.unhcr.org/en/working-group/337?sv=0&amp;geo=680</a>		
Participants		
1. Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR	9. Jana Nagnitschencho - OSCE	16. Alina Busila, WFP
2. Petru Lupu, UNHCR	10. Daniela Palii, CDA	17. Guilia di Porcia, WHO
3. Tatiana Budu, UNFPA	11. Aurelia Bulat, MLSP	18. Cristina Timoftica, ACTED
4. Celine Brixander, UNFPA	12. Mariana Soltan, MLSP	19. Casey O'Neill, Church World Service
5. Dumitru Drumea, Speranta 87	13. Svetlana Olari, CDA	20. Shiori Watanabe, UNHCR Romania
6. Ines Arnautovic, DRC	14. Svetlana Albina, UN Women	
7. Illinka Leger, HEKS-EPER	15. Mariana Mariuta, JEW	
8. Rodica Moraru, VOICE		

## Summary of discussions and agreements/action points

Agenda Item	Discussion	Agreements/Actions
<b>Welcome and introduction</b>	<p><b>Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR</b>, welcomed the participants.</p> <p><b>Celine Brixander, UNFPA</b>, introduced herself and informed that the new GBV SWG co-chair from UNFPAs side will arrive in September.</p>	
<b>Review of GBV SWG 2023 Workplan</b>	<p><b>Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR</b> The proposal is to review the GBV SWG 2023 Workplan and make adjustments as necessary.</p> <p><i>Strengthen localization efforts under the GBV SWG to develop a GBV localization strategy</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A localization workshop is tentatively planned for September. The workshop will include good practices from other locations, and one of the outcomes will be a GBV Localization Strategy with an action plan outlining roles and responsibilities. UNCHR and UNFPA will send a survey to the members to capture desired topics to cover in the workshop in order to draft the agenda.</li> </ul> <p><i>Mainstreaming GBV Risk Mitigation measures into other sectors</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two trainings have been conducted in 2023 on Mainstreaming GBV Risk Mitigation. An identified priority is to work with the Accommodation sector to better understand the needs/gaps/risks for GBV in accommodation. The GBV SWG is working closely with the Basic Needs WG in the RAC consolidation and informal RACs issues to mainstream GBV risk mitigation.</li> </ul> <p><i>Capacitating frontline staff and service providers on GBV</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Several trainings have been conducted and are planned throughout the year. The next training will be on GBV Monitoring and Evaluation in Chisinau, and other trainings are planned for Comrat and Balti.</li> </ul> <p><b>Giulia di Porcia, WHO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WHO will support the inclusion of the health component related to GBV in trainings.</li> </ul> <p><b>Celine Brixander, UNFPA</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members to review workplan and include inputs in coordination with the co-chairs.</li> <li>Members to inform and coordinate with the co-chairs any assessments covering GBV to include it in the Assessment Registry.</li> </ul>

*Coordinate GBV assessment and safety audits*

- UNHCR, UNICEF and UNFPA in collaboration with the Disability and Age Task Force are conducting a second GBV Safety Audit aimed at assessing GBV risks, identifying actions to reduce and mitigate risks, and making recommendations for different sectors. A research company has been selected and the data collection will soon start. The Safety Audit will cover both refugees and host communities, and include risks for people with disabilities, technology-facilitated GBV, and potential risks associated with Temporary Protection.

**Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR**

- UNHCR is starting a study on barriers to disclosure of GBV and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA). The study aims to capture contextual factors that influence people to decide not to disclose GBV incidents, including social, cultural, and religious, among others. The study will support tailoring services that contribute to addressing the barriers and creating a supportive environment for people who want to disclose GBV.

**Celine Brixander, UNFPA**

- All organizations should use the Assessment Registry for all data collection exercises to contribute to coordination of assessments. And organizations should inform and coordinate with the GBV SWG for assessments so there is no overlap.

*Contribute to multi-sector needs assessment MSNA*

- The GBV SWG added inputs to the Multi Sector Needs Assessment related to inclusion of questions to measure the level of knowledge about available GBV services.

**Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR**

*Identify advocacy opportunities, briefings donors, briefing notes, and government stakeholders etc.*

- The GBV SWG have held a session on the health and protection needs of people who sell or exchange sex in humanitarian settings to bring more attention to the topic, understand better the risks and access to services for sex workers. This group is at higher risk of GBV, and it is important to ensure that there is comprehensive support available. The objective of the session was to start the conversation on how to strengthen the protection response for sex workers in a coordinated manner.

*Joint advocacy around mandatory reporting for survivors of GBV*

- The GBV SWG held a session on 24 July on Domestic Violence and Mandatory Reporting to open further discussions on the next steps to find alternatives to prevent harm caused by mandatory

reporting. One example is through joint advocacy efforts on mandatory reporting requirements.

**Celine Brixander, UNFPA**

*Conduct a national mapping of GBV services*

- UNCHR and UNFPA within the framework of the GBV SWG are conducting an exercise to understand the capacity and coordination between GBV services, and how they are functioning as entry points for GBV. The methodology is being finalized and will be presented to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.

**Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR**

*Continuous update and dissemination of GBV Referral Pathways*

- The six referral pathways covering North, South, Central region as well as Chisinau, Otaci, and Palanca are updated on a monthly basis.

*Establish a GBV Case Management Team*

- In the beginning of the year a need was identified to improve the coordination between organizations doing case management as each organization has their own case management system and procedures, which do not communicate, hampering coordination. The idea is to build a common understanding on case management and ensure it is alignment with global GBV standards.
- Refugees are faced with the challenge of navigating the system with services being provided by various local, international, and governmental actors. Once a refugee is referred to another service, we usually don't know what happens next and it's important that all service providers involved in the process are aware of the steps taken. This will also increase the accountability amongst organisations towards beneficiaries.
- GBV SWG members providing case management services and interested in joining efforts to discuss how to advance case management service provision are encouraged to reach out to the coordinators.

*Joint IEC materials including awareness materials for refugees and host community*

- The GBV SWG distributes the GBV Pocket Guide to organizations and frontline workers which has essential information on the steps and the DOs and DONTs in case of a GBV disclosure. The Pocket Guide aims to ensure that those who have direct contact with refugees are well prepared to receive a GBV disclosure.
- GBV flyers are distributed to refugees and host community with information on how to get support.

	<p><i>Provision of comprehensive quality specialized services for survivors and persons at risk of GBV</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GBV SWG members are encouraged to continue coordinating with the GBV SWG by informing when services, including through mobile teams, are established or changed.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Trainings (conducted and upcoming)</b></p>	<p><b>Celine Brixander, UNFPA</b> <i>Trainings conducted</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The GBV SWG conducted a training on Mainstreaming GBV Risk Mitigation on July 13 targeting program managers and persons involved in designing projects in different sectors. There were participants from Child Protection, GBV, Livelihoods and Inclusion, and Education WGs. The overarching goal was to clarify the roles and responsibilities of sectors to include considerations around GBV risks in their activities, and develop skills to integrate GBV in all phases of the program cycle.</li> <li>• A training on Domestic Violence and Mandatory Reporting was conducted on July 24 by Shannon Perez-Darby, from the US-based Mandatory Reporting is Not Neutral Project. The session focused on the consequences of mandatory reporting and harm reduction practices. The presenter shared findings from a report from the National LGBTIQ+ Institute on Intimate Partner Violence in collaboration with the National Domestic Violence Hotline in the US on the impact of mandatory reporting on the wellbeing of GBV survivors and the barriers it creates for survivors who want to seek support. The results showed that nearly 1 in 10 of the surveyed participants said that someone they turned to for help ended up reporting what they shared with an official or authority figure without their consent. 62 % of them reported that their situation got much or little worse than before reporting. 6 in 10 said that the warning about mandatory reporting changed what they decided to share.</li> </ul> <p><i>Trainings planned</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ An in-person training on GBV Monitoring and Evaluation (M&amp;E) will be held on 17 August targeting program managers and persons involved in designing or planning to establish GBV projects. The objective is to provide an overview on how to ensure that M&amp;E processes are conceptualized and executed in a safe and ethical manner consistent with GBV guiding principles, and develop skills to design tools to collect information to inform GBV programming and monitor and evaluate results.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invitation for training on GBV Monitoring and Evaluation to be sent closer to the date.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Update on RAC Consolidation Strategy and Mapping of Informal RACs</b></p>	<p><b>Vanessa Bordin, UNHCR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ministry and Labour and Social Protection (MLSP) is leading the process of implementing a consolidation strategy for the closure of some RACs. The strategy includes a phased approach to do no harm, including by making sure that partners which work in the RACs and familiar with the context are prioritized for interventions, and that all activities are coordinated and informed to</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GBV SWG co-chairs to keep members updated about RACs processes, and coordinate activities.</li> </ul>

	<p>avoid duplication. MLSP, UNHCR and partner organisations will form a Multi-Functional team to conduct the first visits to the RACs and inform residents about the closure and available options. Phases include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>First phase</b> to notify the RAC managers about the visits and prepare the information that will be provided.</li> <li>○ <b>Second phase:</b> Partners will inform residents about the RAC closure, -including the timeline for it and rationale behind the decision. They will also present on the alternative options, such as rental assistance programmes implemented by partners. MLSP will provide information about relocation to other RACs. Families will have the opportunity to ask any questions.</li> <li>○ <b>Third phase:</b> Triage, counselling, intention survey and initial protection monitoring activities will be conducted following the first visit. Counselling will be provided about alternative accommodation options, including for persons with specific needs and persons at risk. During this period, an intention survey will be conducted.</li> <li>○ <b>Fourth phase:</b> Referrals and case management of persons with specific needs and cases at higher risk, including GBV.</li> <li>○ <b>Fifth phase:</b> Transportation of people to identified transferred accommodations.</li> <li>○ <b>Sixth phase:</b> Decommission of RACs, which includes returning the building as they were delivered in the beginning of the emergency.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The Protection WG is conducting an ongoing mapping of informal RACs to understand which services are being provided where, and to identify gaps to ensure that persons have access to services and assistance they are entitled to, and that any potential cases at risk are offered support.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Session in August GBV SWG meeting: GBV AoR and GBV Response in Ukraine</b></p>	<p><b>Celine Brixander, UNFPA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A meeting was held between the co-chairs of the GBV SWG Moldova and the GBV AoR/GBV Sub Cluster Coordinator from Ukraine following the discussion in the last GBV SWG meeting, when members indicated an apparent increase in the incidence of IPV in some regions of Ukraine potentially linked to men returning from the frontlines distressed and traumatized. The plan is for GBV Coordinator from Ukraine to present in the next GBV SWG meeting the GBV trends, availability of GBV services, and the GBV referral pathways in Ukraine. The main purpose of the session will be to support partners in Moldova to inform women about how to access GBV services in Ukraine if they wish to.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● August GBV SWG meeting to have presentation from GBV AoR on the GBV response in Ukraine.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Updates by partners</b></p>	<p><b>Svetlana Albina, UN Women</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● UN Women facilitated a dialogue on prevention and response to GBV with national and local actors. Local and public institutions presented best practices as well as challenges related to GBV service</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● UN Women to share drafted recommendations</li> </ul>

	<p>provision to both refugees and host communities. UN Women is now drafting recommendations based on these inputs to be sent to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The government recently approved the piloting of regional integrated services for survivors of sexual violence, and UN Women financially cover the project for two years. During the first semester of 2023, UN Women’s partners provided specialized GBV services for 2,659 beneficiaries, including legal aid, psychological counselling, social assistance, medical assistance, and shelter.</li> </ul> <p><b>Giulia di Porcia, WHO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Giulia is WHO’s new focal point for PSEA/GBV. She informs that the results of the Interagency PSEA Risk Assessment will be available in September. The preliminary findings suggest that one of the key gaps is related to assistance and availability of services for SEA survivors, and there is a need to work closely together with GBV SWG and establish a plan to ensure that the gaps identified in the assessment are addressed.</li> <li>WHO will conduct a Training of Trainers for health managers on clinical management of rape in October. The goal is to have a pool of 3-5 trainers that can replicate the training to other health managers throughout Moldova.</li> </ul>	<p>resulting from the dialogue on GBV prevention and response with national institutions and organizations.</p>
--	---	---