

MOLDOVA: GENDER TASK FORCE MEETING

Meeting Details	
Date	8 February 2023
Time	09:30 – 14:30
Venue	Jolly Alon hotel, Marble Room
Chair/ co-chair	Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women), Nina Lozinschi (Platform for Gender Equality)
Agenda	
09:30-09:45	Welcome and Introductions
09:45-11:15	Session 1. Review GTF Performance & Impact in 2022
	<i>1.1 GTF Review of GTF 2022 Results</i>
	<i>1.2 GiHA Programming – Perspectives from the Field</i>
11:15-11:30	Coffee Break
11:30-13:30	Session 2. GTF Priorities & Planning for 2023
	<i>2.1 Setting the Context for our work in 2023</i>
	<i>2.2 GTF 2023 Priority Actions ad Work Plan</i>
	<i>Working Groups Sessions:</i>
	• <i>Pillar 1: Coordination</i>
	• <i>Pillar 2: Technical Support, Guidance and Capacity Development</i>
	• <i>Pillar 3: Advocacy, Analysis and Information Sharing</i>
13:30-14:20	Session 3: GTF Management & Coordination
	<i>3.1 Results of Membership Survey</i>
	<i>3.2 Review of Organizational Modalities</i>
14:20-14:30	Conclusion and Next Steps/ AOB

Participants			
#	Name	Organization	Function
1	Nina Lozinschi	Gender Equality Platform	General Secretary
2	Dominika Stojanoska	UN Women	Country Representative
3	Evghenia Hiora	UN Women	Project Officer

4	Galit Wolfensohn	UN Women	GiHA Consultant
5	Sabine Ebner	UN Women	Junior Professional officer
6	Daniela Dutca	UN Women	Project Officer
7	Ionela Nicorici-Railean	UN Women	Programme Associate
8	Lovisa Salomonsson	UN Women	Junior Officer
9	Ala Svet	UN Women	Programme Officer
10	Ludmila Bocsanean	UN Women	Project Associate
11	Daniela David-cimpoies	UN Women	Manager
12	Diana Guzun	UN Women	Programme Associate
13	Svetlana Albina	UN Women	Project Officer
14	Steliana Rudco	AO "Laolalta"	
15	Natalia Popov	AO "Motivatie"	
16	Kim Beentjes	IMPACT Initiatives	
17	Daniele Pedretti	HelpAge	
18	Valentina Geamana	AO "Helmut Wolf"	Director
19	Petru Lupu	UNHCR	
20	Celine Brixander	UNFPA	Information and Reporting Analyst
21	Maxim Mihailuic	AO "Biaz Gul"	
22	Svetlana Georghieva	AO "Biaz Gul"	
23	Renata Gradinaru	AO "Afina"	Director
24	Olga Dymova	AO "Afina"	
25	Irina Luncasu	CALM	Director
26	Alina Busila	UN World Food Programme	
27	Irina Stefan	Moldova Pentru Pace	
28	Steliana Rudco	Community Center 151	
29	Graziella Piga	Project Hope	

30	Vanessa Bordin	UNHCR	
31	Valentina Bodrug	AO "Gender Centru"	Director
32	Doina Marzuolo	IOM	

Summary of discussions and agreements/ action items

Agenda/Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<p>Welcome and introductions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women) welcomed participants and reflected on why the GTF was established, what was achieved in 2022 and stated that 2023 will focus on localization. Dominika also shared hopes of improving the participation of sector leads in 2023. • Nina Lozinschi (Gender Equality Platform) made opening remarks and urged participants to take this opportunity to provide inputs. • Galit Wolfensohn (UN Women) introduced the agenda of the workshop and initiated a round of presentation of the participants. 	
<p>Session 1. Review GTF Performance and Impact in 2022</p> <p><i>1.1 GTF Review of GTF 2022 Results</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) presented the review of the GTF performance and impact in 2022 to identify lessons learned and areas for improvement under: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coordination: Increased coordination on gender in the refugee response across working groups, key governmental institutions and organisations providing assistance and services to the Refugees from Ukraine and Host Communities in Moldova ▪ Technical support and Capacity Building: Technical support and capacity building are provided to humanitarian actors on gender in humanitarian action for Refugees from Ukraine and Host Communities in Moldova ▪ Advocacy and Information: Increased advocacy, communication and knowledge building on gender responsive humanitarian action for the Refugees from Ukraine and Host Communities in Moldova • Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women) suggested to translate the "Gender Mainstreaming Checklists to inform Refugee Response in Moldova" also to Russian. 	<p>1. Translation of Checklist in Russian</p>

- **Evghenia Hiora** (UN Women) informed that the [English](#) and [Romanian](#) versions of the checklist are available online and that she can be reached directly for them, if needed.
- **Galit Wolfensohn** (UN Women) informed that there will be group work after coffee break, during which the participants will be provided opportunity to reflect on the GTF performance and impact for 2022 and will be invited to provide inputs.

1.2 GiHA Programming – Perspectives from the Field

- **Nina Lozinschi** (Gender Equality Platform) presented the GTF member panel discussion for perspectives from the field:
 - **Irina Luncasu** (CALM) highlighted the importance of giving attention to specific and different needs of women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity. She shared that there are challenges between local and central authorities, and that legal provisions are needed to enable local authorities to provide immediate solutions. Irina expressed her gratitude for CSOs and donors who provide support.
 - **Natalia Popov** (Motivatie) stressed the importance of intersectionality and understanding people’s different identities. Natalia shared the struggles of refugees with disabilities, specifically with accessibility, including difficulties to access transportation to hospitals. Natalia shared the activities of Motivatie in supporting refugees with disabilities, which includes needs assessment, help with transportation and assisting in finding suitable jobs.
 - **Daniele Pedretti** (HelpAge) shared the risks for older refugees. Some older refugees are chronically ill and do not have access to the same medications as in Ukraine or cannot afford this medication here. The Moldovan Government provides access to basic health care but not to specialist care. There is a problem with transport and accessibility to specialists. Daniele shared the need to have inclusive information sharing, and that there has not been enough preparedness for older refugees passing away.
 - **Nina Lozinschi** (Gender Equality Platform) highlighted the gender dimensions of the crisis for older refugees, such as the emotional needs of older men who have left their sons in Ukraine.
 - **Daniele Pedretti** (HelpAge) shared that there are refugee mothers who are unable to work due to not having caretakers of their children. He also shared that many older refugees are caretakers of their grandchildren, either so their children can work or because their children are still in Ukraine.
 - **Nina Lozinschi** (Gender Equality Platform) stated the need to advocate for childcare solutions.

- **Renata Gradinaru** (Afina) shared her experience of creating a space for refugee women to meet in Balti, especially for refugee women who live alone in private homes. The specific needs of refugee women and children were identified and activities planned. They now provide several services such as psychological support, art classes, legal assistance, IT-courses and training on how to write a CV.
- **Valentina Bodrug** (Gender-Centru) presented the Women Leadership Academy for Peace, which involved local and refugee women who learned and created projects together. Valentina emphasized the importance of not approaching refugees as victims, but to view them as agents of change. She also explained the importance of having refugees accept the situation that they are in, so that they can become more integrated into the local community. Valentina also shared the need for sustainable funding.
- **Irina Stefan** (Moldova for Peace) mentioned that they manage the biggest informational portal in Facebook for refugees and presented the opportunity to share information on ongoing projects and available services through this page to reach more people.
- **Nina Lozinschi** (Gender Equality Platform) opened the floor for questions.
 - **Steliana Rudco** (Community Center 151) echoed on the difficulties of people with disabilities and mentioned a case of a street woman with mental disability, who they struggled to provide assistance due to lack of ambulance and the police involvement and absence of clear referral pathways. She asked for advice on what to do in these situations.
 - **Natalia Popov** (AO Motivatie) mentioned that their best practice is to work with partners specializing in particular services for people with disabilities (for example, Center for Rights of People with Disabilities), 40 centers for mental health located throughout the country and emergency centers (for example, on Maria Dragan street).
 - **Irina Luncasu** (CALM) underlined that there is currently no institutionalised model of response for such cases, this is why the working groups exist and reiterated the importance of participation of representatives from local authorities. She said that the state needs to provide referral pathways for both local and refugee population, so people know who to call and where to go in these instances.
 - **Daniele Pedretti** (HelpAge) mentioned that RACs are not accessible and endowed for people with disabilities, including mental disabilities. Disability and Age TF plans to carry out accessibility assessment of accredited RACs.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women) asked about one refugee crisis management unit established by CALM to collect and monitor refugee needs at the community level – what are the most pressing needs now, what support is needed to continue operationalizing the center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Irina Luncasu (CALM) mentioned that the unit continues its operation through a dedicated call center for LPAs, but the financial and human resources are very limited. Regular, every two months, assessments need to be done, with humanitarian actors additionally supporting the formulation of assessment questionnaires to facilitate the collection of relevant information. Also, it is important to make sure that questionnaires are responded by refugee women, rather than mayors, and provide specific and accurate information about the needs of the affected people. Most pressing current needs – social integration and cohesion, integration of children to kindergarten and school, afterschool services, support to local level community centers providing services to refugees and funded from the local budget. 	
<p>Session 2. GTF Priorities & Planning for 2023</p> <p><i>2.1 Setting the Context for our work in 2023</i></p> <p><i>2.2 GTF 2023 Priority Actions ad Work Plan</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) presented Refugee Response Plan 2023 Protection and Solutions Strategy, country strategic objectives and the operational context with the following priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Key country focus areas for 2023 include temporary protection, humanitarian-development-peace nexus, support to host communities, socio-economic resilience, social cohesion and localisation. ▪ Key GTF focus areas for 2023 include intersectional analysis, enhancement of SADD collection and analysis, greater participation of women-led, women-right organisations and refugee women, targeted programming aimed at most vulnerable groups including Roma, Elderly and People with Disabilities. • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) also presented the challenges of 2022, highlighting among others that protection risks, and health issues remain a concern, Roma refugee women face multiple intersecting risks and barriers, and information management and coordination are still not working effectively in all regions. Localization, collection of sex, age and disability disaggregated data, participatory consultations, socio-economic resilience and engagement of women in peace processes needs to be enhanced. • Evghenia Hiora (UN Women) presented the draft vision and mission statements, as well as the draft annual workplan of the GTF. 	<p>2. Adjust vision and mission statements, ToR and AWP</p> <p>3. Circulate AWP for final approval and division of activities</p>

- **Galit Wolfensohn** (UN Women) presented the format for the working group discussion and divided the participants into four groups with separate areas of focus. Participants were invited to brainstorm on the strengths and gaps, opportunities and challenges of the refugee response, to reflect on the role of the Gender Task Force in the context of the refugee response and to scrutinize one of the areas of the annual work plan. Each group made a SWOT-analysis of the past year and discussed key priorities for 2023 as follows:
 - **Steliana Rudco** (Community Center 151) presented the discussions of Group 1 - Coordination
 - Strengths: The GTF is a good platform for exchange and keep each other updated; good opportunity to improve networking among organizations; relevant information and increase of knowledge.
 - Weaknesses: Too many meetings, it is difficult to be meaningfully engaged in all of them; agencies do not coordinate among themselves.
 - Opportunities: Share more expertise and feedback from other organizations on certain issues, from certain regions, etc.; include the representatives of the target group and have more refugees and beneficiaries in the GTF; hold each other more accountable (in practice this could be to go through specific reports launched by other NGOs and discuss how the findings translate to our context, what is missing, what needs to be done or advocated for from our side); participation of local authorities or government representatives could be utilized more strategically to bring forward our advocacy issues, focusing on very specific topics; have more multi-level discussions between local authorities, government, and NGOs.
 - Risks: Protraction of conflict and more pressure on the country.
 - Priority areas and suggestions: Include and support participation of refugee women in GTF (regular or tea meetings, open mic, etc.); have thematic meetings with targeted audience and specific discussions (for example, health, GBV, etc.); define activities in a more specific way; have a living workplan to be adjusted quarterly.
 - **Evghenia Hiora** (UN Women) presented the discussions of Group 2 - Technical support and capacity building:
 - Strengths: Establishment of sector specific groups allows to keep focus on certain issues and is helpful; openness of the host community and readiness to help is very supportive; cash assistance (multi-purpose cash, cash for rent, cash for utilities, cash for host communities, etc.) seems to be a

very good practice; funding streams from donors to local CSOs helps build local capacities; response to immediate needs was quite effective with the later shift to economic inclusion, skills development, business development, support with employment; access to Romanian language courses and integration into schools empowered refugees to better integrate into society; mapping of services, especially for Gagauzia, is very useful.

- **Weaknesses:** Ineffective coordination between all actors involved (high level discussions do not reach local communities or grassroots organizations); Gagauzia is currently less covered by refugee response than other regions; limited or no access to health services in specific areas; services often overlap due to lack of communication and other services are not covered due to the lack of information where to find these services; lack of accredited RACs (for people with disabilities, victims of GBV, etc.) to respond to specific needs; national legislation is not yet fully adapted to the refugee crisis - issues around car registration, business registration, status of children enrolled in education.
- **Opportunities:** RRP allowed local CSOs to strengthen their capacities; funding for refugee response allowed to strengthen services for local population through humanitarian development nexus; created opportunities to respond to brain drain of the country with new jobs for skilled refugees.
- **Risks:** Potential tensions between host and refugee communities; heightened protection risks (GBV, SEA, school bullying, trafficking); ethnic tensions and overload of social, educational and economic system in Moldova and potential influx if the war continues; lack of sustainability of funding for local CSOs, as much funding is linked to humanitarian response only.
- **Priority areas and suggestions:** Local CSOs need training not only on GiHA, but also on how to attract and work with volunteers; trainings on referral pathways; trainings on advocacy, trainings on project management and reporting; trainings on forensic documentation of GBV, documentation of psychological violence; GBV trainings for multi-disciplinary teams. Besides trainings, supervision from UN agencies and INGOs of the quality of certain services provided by CSOs would be helpful; local CSOs collect a lot of information, but often do not have resources or capacities to process this information and use it as a base for advocacy, it is important to think how we could collaborate together to make the best use of this information and channel the voices from the ground; all materials produced and meetings held should be translated in all relevant languages, including Russian, to make sure that Russian-speaking areas of the country and refugee women are not excluded from the response.

- **Nina Lozinschi** (Gender Equality Platform) reiterated the need to provide courses of Romanian language on the regular basis. It would be great to have centers that would provide regular Romanian language courses.
 - **Dominika Stojanoska** (UN Women) said that we need to see how to quickly build a team of trainers for PSEA. It would be good if we could identify a number of partners from civil society to be trained on PSEA and referrals.
 - **Vanessa Bordian** (UNHCR) suggested to have more joint capacity building activities around GiHA and GBV.
- **Nina Lozinschi** (Gender Equality Platform) presented the discussions of Group 3 – Advocacy:
 - Strengths: Diversity of services for women and children, networking among the GTF members and participation in existing coordination mechanisms.
 - Weaknesses: Ignorance of expertise of local NGOs, external communication with NGOs in refugee response, lack of specific response for diverse needs of women and children, GBV and SEA risks, lack of structured information with regard to entitlements, benefits, services and obligations.
 - Priority areas and suggestions: GBV case management for RACs needs to be improved, information on available services needs to be clearer and more shared in a way that it reaches everyone, advocacy for a consolidated approach towards communication by all stakeholders.
 - **Dominika Stojanoska** (UN Women) mentioned that a persistent challenge will be to understand how to strengthen advocacy, for example of Roma and gender related issues. We will need to agree on how sector leads will join our work, or how we will join other groups with specific recommendations. Dominika also stated that we need to know how to collect the available data from CSOs that can be used for advocacy. The group must think about how we can work more closely with other sectors, such as the taskforces for disability, Roma, GBV, protection, PSEA, children and education.
 - **Steliana Rudco** (Community Center 151) asked if advocacy is being done on the difference between displaced persons and refugees, since many Moldovans seem to think that all refugees are poor with no background.
 - **Dominika Stojanoska** (UN Women) underlined the importance of the issue and suggested to use existing networks of organizations, including the Congress of Local Authorities to share

the information. This should be a recurring information sharing. This may be a topic for discussion for Information Management group.

- **Graziella Piga** (Project HOPE) suggested UN Women to take the lead and advocate for gender equality in refugee response with senior management of UN agencies and donors, as currently there are quite some discussions at the technical level, but not at the senior. Technical staff needs support from the senior management to be able to advance gender equality on the ground.
- **Dominika Stojanoska** (UN Women) mentioned that there should be a regular item on the agenda for the Refugee Coordination Forum on gender mainstreaming with reflections from sector leads. For donor coordination meetings, GTF should plan to have an item on the agenda to reflect on the gender mainstreaming in the response and to inform development partners on what is being done and share the current challenges.
- **Vanessa Bordian** (UNHCR) introduced the discussions of Group 4 –Vision and Mission of the GTF:
 - **Graziella Piga** (Project HOPE) suggested to spell out the notion of “women, men, boys and girls in all their diversity”. She suggested to clarify access and change to ‘equitable access for everyone’, finally to switch the order as below:

Women, men, girls and boys in all their diversity (suggestion: name all those diversities) affected by the Ukraine refugee crisis in Moldova have equitable access to and benefit from humanitarian relief, services and information, with a special focus on the most marginalized and at heightened risk groups.

- **Vanessa Bordian** (UNHCR) suggested to adjust the mission statement to include “active engagement” of women organisations and refugee-led organisations as below:

To strengthen accountability on mainstreaming gender in the refugee response, by ensuring that humanitarian actors understand and address the different needs, priorities and capacities of affected refugees and host community populations of all genders, ages and diversities, including the most marginalized population and those at heightened risk, when designing, planning, costing,

implementing, monitoring and evaluating refugee response efforts. This entails ensuring that the strengths, capacities and expertise of refugees and host communities, including women and girls, as well as women-led and refugee-led organizations, are incorporated in protection responses, participation, decision-making and leadership structures through meaningful participation and active engagement.

- Galit Wolfensohn (UN Women) informed the meeting that the workplan will be updated based on the inputs, circulated around for final approval and to see who will take ownership of which activities to ensure collective action.

Session 3: GTF Management & Coordination

- **Nina Lozinschi** (Gender Equality Platform) presented the results of the [GTF Satisfactory Survey](#).
- **Evghenia Hiora** (UN Women) presented suggestions for improvement to make the GTF more effective, efficient, and responsive.
- **Galit Wolfensohn** (UN Women) invited participants to brainstorm on the frequency of meetings, membership, participation and communication.
 - Frequency of meetings: Participants agreed to have monthly meetings.
 - Membership: Members suggested to have more refugee women and representatives from central government (level of State Secretary and not Head of Department). GTF should also get in contact with the coordinator of iNGOs to see if the link can be established between the coordinators of local and international NGOs. Good coordination with the local government should continue. Meetings need to be hybrid to allow participation from the regions. GTF should also foster links to Local Coordination meetings.
 - Participation: Members suggested to have 6 hybrid meeting in Chisinau, 6 thematic hybrid meetings in the regions. Valentina Geamana from Helmut Wolf offered organisation premises for a thematic meeting. Members underlined the importance of participation of GTF members in Local Coordination meetings with subsequent briefings of the members on main updates. Members also suggested establishment of action oriented Sub-Task Forces for particular areas (capacity building, advocacy, GBV, etc.) with specific activities and deadlines. Members suggested to use digital tools (surveys, etc.) to collect opinions and suggestions from the people who do not feel comfortable speaking on the mic.
 - Communication: Members suggested to continue with the annual report of the GTF to make visible the work of the group. UN Women can make an effort to produce quarterly newsletters, but it will require

<p>informational support from the members. Readiness of members to provide stories need to be checked through a survey. Training on communicating results and stories from the field is also an option.</p>	
<p>Conclusion and Next Steps/ AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dominika Stojanoska (UN Women) concluded the workshop by reflecting on the past year and how we have proved the necessity of the GTF, but that in 2023 we will have to prove its effectiveness. Recommendations given will be taken forward. • Nina Lozinschi (Gender Equality Platform) said that further discussions will be needed on the thematic meetings, and we need to think about the agenda for these meetings. It will be helpful to have more input from members on this, and a follow-up email will be sent. 	
<p>Material shared</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GTF workplan and TOR • PowerPoint • GTF Satisfaction Survey 	