



## Inter-Agency Refugee Education Working Group (IREWG)

### IREWG Monthly Meeting - 30 March 2023

<b>Meeting Details: Education Working Group Monthly Meeting</b>	
<b>Date</b>	30 March 2023
<b>Time</b>	13:00-14:30
<b>Chair</b>	Katherine Lampe and Fadia Jbara - UNHCR Co-chair: Ludmila Pavlov – Ministry of Education and Research Co-chair: Loujine Khoury- UNICEF
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:lampe@unhcr.org">lampe@unhcr.org</a> <a href="mailto:jbarafa@unhcr.org">jbarafa@unhcr.org</a>
<b>Agenda</b>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. MER updates</li><li>2. Education Working Group ToR and Work Plan (UNICEF)</li><li>3. Education Sector Contingency Plan exercise (UNICEF &amp; UNHCR)</li><li>4. Presentation WASH kits (UNICEF)</li><li>5. Partner Presentation (IsraAid, Peace Winds)</li><li>6. Aob (capacity building trainings, ActivityInfo reporting, upcoming assessments) (UNICEF &amp; UNHCR)</li></ol>	
<b>Information collection and relevant links</b>	
ActivityInfo Platform: <a href="https://www.activityinfo.org/">https://www.activityinfo.org/</a>	
<b>Participants</b>	



Katherine Lampe, UNHCR	Bitcoi Maxim, Phoenix	Ludmila Pavlov – MER
Loujine Khoury, UNICEF	Reilian Denis, Peace Winds	Ledrisi Lamia, We World
Noor Bakhsh, UNICEF	Lucee Erica, IsraAid	Mihai Cotorobai, PIN
Carolina Scifos, UNHCR	Busanouseni Zima, CICD Pheonix	Pusca Tatiana, CRS
Fadia Jbara, UNHCR	Glovek-Short Martina, CRS	Cristina Triboi, Terre de Hommes
Sivkova Sara, UNHCR	Diana Panainte, CCF	Joanna Filipoulos, REACH
Anna Moraru, UNDP	Marcel Stranton, Lumos Foundation	Lilia Parhomenco, IRC
Nata Imanova, IsraAid	Valentina Ghenciu, Lumos Foundation	Escan Andrei, FFL PLM

### Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Actions Points
<p><b>1. MER updates</b></p>	<p>The Ministry of Education and Research (MER) gave a quick update on the number of enrolled refugee children in Moldovan schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- At the beginning of this week there were a total of 1,862 children (of which of the grade school students, 443 are fully enrolled and 728 are enrolled as auditors) enrolled in 228 schools               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Pre-school total of 701 children</li> <li>o Grades 1-4 total of 627 children</li> <li>o Grades 5-9 total of 504 children</li> <li>o High School total of 30 children</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>MER clarified that of the students who are enrolled as pupils in classes, most of their parents decided to stay in Moldova (by applying to get the Temporary Protection), however, for those students who attend only as auditors their parents remain undecided on their stay in Moldova and the children continue to also follow online Ukrainian classes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The MER will send updated information on the enrollment of children in Moldovan school disaggregated by sex and region to members of WG.</li> <li>- The MER to share the updated instructions on enrolling Ukrainian children in Moldovan schools with the working</li> </ul>



	<p>MER shared information about new cases of Covid 19 and other respiratory infections in schools. In preschools, there are about 70 children infected, and in primary schools 22 infected students. For now, no class or school is under quarantine.</p> <p>MER informed the participants on the communication with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. There will be organized graduation exams for Ukrainian students currently residing in Moldova. For now, there are about 250 refugee students who applied for these exams. In May 2023, the total number of students applied for examination will be clarified.</p> <p>Regarding Temporary Protection (TP), UNHCR asked if there has been a change in the number of enrolled refugee students since the start of TP enrollment. MER responded that there are no specific data for now but will provide more information next month as the statistics will be much clearer, while comparing it with previous month's numbers. As for the updated instructions regarding enrolling Ukrainian children in Moldovan schools, MER is working on guidelines and instructions and will disseminate them with the working group partners once ready.</p> <p>Lumos Foundation asked about refugee students enrolled in the rural area. MER replied that there is currently no disaggregation of data by rural/urban location, but such information could be obtained and will be shared with working group members once available.</p>	<p>group partners once finalized.</p>
<b>2. Education Working Group ToR and Work Plan (UNICEF)</b>	<p>UNICEF co-chair presented the work plan for the Education Working Group. The plan includes 5 main objectives (coordination, information management and monitoring &amp; evaluation, planning &amp; strategy development, capacity building and advocacy) along with sub activities to strengthen the cooperation and coordination of partners in responding to the education needs of refugee children. The workplan will be shared with the meeting minutes with the partners to provide their feedback and input before finally endorsing it. Regarding the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Working Group, it is still being finalized to better define the roles of the working group lead and co-leads.</p>	<p>UNICEF will share the work plan with EWG members for feedback by 18 April 2023.</p>
<b>3. Education Sector Contingency Plan exercise (UNICEF &amp; UNHCR)</b>	<p>UNHCR co-chair and UNICEF co-chair gave an update on contingency planning. The Interagency coordination team has asked each sector to update their contingency plan. These sector contingency plans do not replace government or ministry plans but rather focus on planning of the humanitarian partners to respond to a large influx of refugees if one of the contingency plan scenarios ever materializes. In order to conduct the exercise, MER will work with UNHCR co-chair and UNICEF co-chair to identify the main priority areas of intervention in the education sector for humanitarian partners in the first 10 days to three months of an influx. Based on these priority activities, partners will be asked to input their capacities and contingency stock into a spreadsheet. This exercise will help</p>	<p>UNHCR and UNICEF will distribute the sector specific contingency plan spreadsheet for input and feedback from Education Working Group partners in a separate email with all the relevant details.</p>



	<p>as well to identify what are the capacities of partner organizations, address existing gaps, share the priorities, and identify the overlaps with other sectors.</p> <p>CRS representative asked about the school supplies kit for Moldovan schools. UNICEF noted that there is no standardized school kit agreed on by the Education Working Group partners, but this is one of the main priorities to discuss with the Strategic Advisory Group (SAG) once established.</p>	
<p><b>4. Presentation on WASH kits (UNICEF)</b></p>	<p>The UNICEF WASH officer provided information on the development and distribution of hygiene kits for Moldovan schools. The development takes into consideration the hygiene needs of the children and the number of children enrolled in the school. The WASH sub-group in Moldova developed the standardized hygiene kit for both schools and kindergartens in consultation with the technical persons of WASH partners. The hygiene kit consists of mandatory content which is critical for hygiene; and optional content which can be added depending on the resources availability/capacities of the partners.</p> <p>UNDP asked about the timing and conditioning of the distribution of the hygiene kits. UNICEF WASH officer replied that the main focus group for the distribution of hygiene kits to the schools that have some refugee students, however, the hygiene kits can be distributed to other schools located in remote areas which lack resources. For now, hygiene kits distributed in 96 schools where the highest number of refugees in the Rayons as per UNHCR data.</p>	<p>UNICEF will share the document with the content of the hygiene kits.</p>
<p><b>5. Partner presentation (IsraAid, Peace Winds)</b></p>	<p><u>IsraAID (IA) presentation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- IA provides aid in 4 areas of expertise such as education; protection; health and medical care; water, sanitation and hygiene.</li> <li>- IA in Moldova opened a series of child-friendly spaces (Chisinau, Balti, Palanka, Stefan Voda), provides PSS and PFA, and provided aid during winterization.</li> <li>- IA works together with 3 Moldovan NGOs (Concordia Practice Sociale, Family Federation and AFINA) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Please refer to the attached presentation to get more information about the work of IsraAid.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>Peace Winds presentation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Peace Winds (PW) is a Japanese INGO, present in Moldova since March 2022.</li> <li>- PW engages in health, food and NFI distribution, accommodation and active aid during winterization (distribution of food and NFI). Additionally, they support community engagement projects and projects for people with disabilities.</li> </ul>	<p>Presentations will be circulated together with the meeting minutes.</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- PW core education project in Moldova is the Smart Class project, which was launched in June 2022 and was funded by the Japanese government and Smart Aid and is implemented through local INGO CICS Phoenix.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Please refer to the attached presentation to get more information about the work of Peace Winds.</li></ul></li></ul> <p>CICS Phoenix representative introduced her organization’s activities in Moldova such as the distribution of school supply kits, Starlink sets (obtained by cooperation with SpaceX) and classrooms in RACs (around 20 RACs) for Ukrainian children studying online.</p> <p>UNHCR co-chair emphasized the good practice of creating tech labs inside of schools, to support Ukrainian children’s integration in the community and their social-emotional development.</p> <p>UNICEF co-chair mentioned their own Tech Labs project in cooperation with the MER (45 tech labs are planned to be set up by August 2023) and emphasized that it is important for organizations to share their plans for similar project with the working group leads, to avoid duplication.</p> <p>UNHCR co-chair encouraged other NGOs and INGOs to present their own project during the next meeting.</p>	
<p><b>6. AoB</b></p>	<p>UNICEF co-chair informed members that the deadline for partners to add their education activities for January and February 2023 will be on 31 March 2023. This platform will be used to identify gaps and to provide technical support.</p> <p>The Multi Sector Needs Assessment (MSNA) be rolled out in June 2023. The tools for the assessment will be shared with the sector leads for inputs in the coming weeks.</p> <p>An Education Sector Assessment concept note is currently being developed to assess several areas including: the main challenges Ukrainian children face to enroll in Moldovan schools, parents’ and students’ perceptions of the quality of online education and additional support that is needed to support student’s learning, etc. The concept note will be shared with MER for inputs, then will be shared with partners as well to provide their inputs and feedback before rolling out the assessment by the REACH team.</p> <p>Regarding the capacity building trainings, partners provided their feedback in the shared Excel sheet regarding the trainings they are interested in having and also have the capacity to provide. The</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Partners to input activities into ActivityInfo</li> <li>- UNICEF and UNHCR co-chairs to coordinate with the Protection Working Group for the capacity building trainings.</li></ul>



	<p>Education Working Group will reach out to the Protection Working Group as they are already in the process of preparing cross-sectorial trainings, in which Education Working Group members could be included. More information will be sent later in this regard.</p> <p>MER encouraged the reporting in the ActivityInfo platform, and also proposed creating a quarterly newsletter or information factsheet which would be distributed among partners and published on the MER website. The aim is to increase the visibility of education partners interventions in the response.</p> <p>UNHCR co-chair gave a brief update on TP and encouraged partners to share any questions related to education and TP that they are hearing in the community with Education co-chairs.</p> <p>The next meeting will be hosted by the Ministry of Education and Research on April 27. MER will inform about the agenda of the next meeting soon.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Co-chairs to discuss the implementation of a quarterly newsletter</li></ul>
--	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------