

<b>Date</b>	26 April 2023	<b>Location</b>	Hybrid – in person at UNHCR premises and online on Teams
<b>Chair &amp; Co chair</b>	UNHCR	<b>Note taking / minutes</b>	UNHCR
<b>Participating organizations and members</b>	<b>UNHCR</b> (Hayoung Kim, Petya Karayaneva, Lea Kraitem, Aleksandar Naskov); <b>IOM</b> (Mariya Samuilova); <b>BCRM</b> (Vladimir Milev); <b>BRC</b> (Dr. Sofia Stoimenova); <b>Caritas</b> (Konstantin Ivanov); <b>CRW</b> (Nina Charles); <b>FAR</b> (Desislava Argirova); <b>Pituitary Foundation</b> (Vania Dobрева); <b>Reachout Foundation</b> (Kristina Gologanova); <b>Situation Centre Open Doors</b> (Radina Dimitrova); <b>SDA</b> (Snezhina Gabova); <b>USRF</b> (Nataliia Vasylieva).		
<b>Agenda</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional-level Inter-Agency Meeting updates (Varna, Burgas)</li> <li>2023 Q1 Activity Info and Financial Tracking update</li> <li>Operational Updates</li> <li>AOB</li> </ul>		
<b>Agenda Point</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Agreed Decisions / Follow-Up Actions</b>	
<b>Regional-level Inter-Agency Meeting updates</b>	<p><b>Varna:</b> Following the first regional inter-agency meeting in Varna at the end of March which was chaired by the Varna mayor, the mayor has organized weekly meetings with the NGOs to continue the discussions on issues raised by the inter-agency group/NGOs during the meeting and also designated a focal point from the municipality for further communication/coordination. The fourth meeting is also taking place today (26 April) at the municipality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Particularly on education, the municipality has raised that they would like to know the number of children who would want access to schools in Varna region for the upcoming school year as this would help them to better understand the needs and what support may be needed. Energy Association and other organizations have conducted a survey among refugee parents regarding school enrolment during April, and the results will be shared with the municipality (and the inter-agency group).</li> <li>Challenges with regards to long distance to available schools have also been raised; while the municipality provides public transportation cards (which may still require a caregiver to accompany the child to school), the municipality does not provide buses (neither for Bulgarian children).</li> </ul>	Comprehensive updates from the April Varna meetings will be shared.	



	<p>- The need for simple information for the refugee community on how to electronically register children was also raised and NGOs will work with the municipality on developing simplified information, already available in the municipal website.</p> <p><b>Burgas:</b> The Burgas-regional inter-agency meeting will be held on 16 May at the Burgas municipality office, chaired by the Burgas mayor.</p>	<p>Inter-Agency team will reach out to Burgas-based RRP partners/organizations on attendance confirmation.</p>
<p><b>2023 Q1 Activity Info and Financial Tracking update</b></p>	<p><i>Presentation on preliminary reported figures is separately shared (note: cash figures are being verified).</i></p> <p>Bulgaria's Q1 inputs will be included in the 2023 Q1 regional report, which will be circulated once finalized and shared.</p> <p>A virtual walk-in session on Activity Info, April monthly reporting will be scheduled for next <b>Tuesday, 2 May</b> from <b>10-11AM</b> on MS TEAMS (link will be shared separately).</p> <p>Monthly reporting is by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each following month. April 2023 reporting is requested in Activity Info by <b>10 May 2023</b>.</p>	<p>Figures relevant to key sectors will be shared with sector/working group leads for further discussion/analysis in the respective working groups.</p>
<p><b>Operational Updates</b></p>	<p><b>Situational Centre Open Doors</b> informed participants of the <b>lecture on theatre therapy techniques in working with children with special needs and trauma</b> at the New Bulgarian University taking place on 26 April afternoon (invitation was also circulated to inter-agency partners). Workshop, theatre and other activities are also taking place. Organizations working on child protection and MHPSS are encouraged to drop by.</p> <p><b>Bulgarian Red Cross (BRC)</b> updated on the <b>ongoing services</b> being provided through BRC's 13 service points. The first and second winterization grant distributions have been completed. BRC will soon begin with the distribution of some 3,000 family food parcels and hygiene parcels. Health activities are continuing since April in two regional branches. BRC has developed regulations on medical assistance to Ukrainians in the country and is in the process of <b>revising the IFRC-BRC financial appeal for medical assistance for UKR refugees</b>.</p> <p><b>UNHCR</b> updated on the <b>visit of the Deputy High Commissioner (DHC) for Refugees in Bulgaria</b> earlier this week. The DHC met with the Minister of Foreign Affairs; Minister of Interior; Vice President; the Chairperson of the State Agency for Refugees; the diplomatic community. She also met with refugees in Plovdiv as well as at the Refugee Reception Centre in Ovcha Kupel. Throughout all her meetings with the Government, the Deputy Higher Commissioner strongly advocated a predictable humanitarian program for Ukrainian refugees on behalf of the inter-agency members – and also for a national inclusion policy for refugees (not only</p>	



	<p>Ukrainians, but also all nationalities). Other topics discussed included strengthening of the asylum system as well as on the pledges that Bulgaria will be making at the Global Refugee Forum taking place in December 2023 in Geneva.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- UNHCR also mentioned that a meeting with civil society may be organized to discuss the pledges that Bulgaria could make. So far, the Government of Bulgaria has made some pledges which were mostly related to statelessness. Working with civil society, private actors and academic, all actors could support on making strong, tangible pledges by the end of the year.</li></ul> <p><b>Sofia Development Association (SDA)</b> informed all organizations to reach out to SDA (Snhezhina Gabova, contacts: <a href="mailto:s.gabova@sofia-da.eu">s.gabova@sofia-da.eu</a> / Adele Aleksandrova, contacts: <a href="mailto:a.aleksandrova@sofia-da.eu">a.aleksandrova@sofia-da.eu</a>) if organizations would like to add any inputs for the monthly program for the Bureau for Information and Services for Third Country Nationals. It is being updated on a monthly basis and lists all the organizations that are providing services such as consultation services, legal assistance, accommodation and so on. There is also space for organizing meetings or trainings or new initiatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- SDA also mentioned that there are updates on available funding from Bulgarian and non-Bulgarian donors being posted regularly on the Bureau website (<a href="https://infobureau.bcrm-bg.org/en/news">https://infobureau.bcrm-bg.org/en/news</a>), for interested organizations.</li></ul>	
<p><b>Next Meeting</b></p>	<p><b>Virtual Walk-In Session for Activity Info</b> <b>Date:</b> 2 May 2023 <b>Location:</b> Online on MS Teams <b>Time:</b> 10.00-11.00AM</p> <p><b>Burgas Regional Inter-Agency Refugee Coordination meeting</b> <b>Date:</b> 16 May 2023 <b>Location:</b> Burgas Municipality office (online on teams – hybrid) <b>Time:</b> 13.00-14.00PM</p> <p><b>Inter-Agency Coordination Working Group meeting</b> <b>Date:</b> 30 May 2023 <b>Location:</b> UNHCR Office first floor conference room and online on MS TEAMS – hybrid <b>Time:</b> 10.00-11.00AM</p>	