

Bulgaria Inter-Agency Meeting Minutes

Date	24 January 2023	Location	Hybrid – in person at UNHCR premises and online on Teams
Chair & Co chair	UNHCR	Note taking / minutes	Aleksandra Vicheva-UNHCR
Participating organizations and members	<p>UNHCR (Hayoung Kim, Shoira Ruzybaeva, Aleksandar Naskov, Boris Cheshirkov, Yana Dodnikova, Rukiya Abdul Aziz, Dr. Gebrewold Petrus, Radoslava Mechkyurova, Nicolas Rodrigues Serna); UNICEF (Carole Vignaud, Elena Atanassova, Nina Sorokopud; Denitsa Krasteva, Snezhana Radeva, Simona Yankova, Elena Zlatanova); WHO (Andrea Paiato, Michail Okoliyski); IOM (Maria Samuilova); BHC (Iliana Savova) BRC (Dr. Sofia Stoimenova, Nela Vamporova, Dr. Pencho Penchev); USRF (Natalia Ellis); Reachout Foundation (Nikol Karapeeva); Situation Centre Open Doors (Joana Bestuic); Aid for Ukraine; Caritas (Yanitsa Nedelcheva); FAR (Rositsa Atanasova); CRW (Nina Charles); Center Nadia (Dr. Rossanka Venelinova); Sofia Municipality; SAR</p>		
Agenda	<p>IACWG meeting -10.00 – 11.00 hrs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operational Updates • 5W service mapping • AOB <p>HEALTH sector discussion – 11.00 -12.00 hrs.</p>		
Agenda Point	Summary of Discussion		Agreed Decisions / Follow-Up Actions
Operational Updates	<p><u>CRW/ Nina</u> introduced herself, as representing Council for Refugees Women NGO.</p> <p><u>Inter-Agency Coordination Officer</u> updated on RRP launch – it will take place on 16 February in Sofia, together with the Government, RRP partners and donor community . Inter-Agency participants are requested to save the date. More details will follow. The regional and Bulgarian RRP chapter is currently in a process of translation into Bulgarian.</p> <p>A Shared folder has been created for the IACWG participants, work for granting access is ongoing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>UNICEF/Carole</u> asked about the communication aspect of RRP launch and the coordination modalities. <u>UNHCR/Boris</u> informed that UNHCR will have a press release that will be coordinated with UNICEF and other partners. UNHCR will organise a press conference following the RRP launch, the place and timing are still to be confirmed. UNICEF and UNHCR communications teams should meet shortly. <p><u>UNHCR/Boris</u> updated that UNHCR communications team is initiating meetings bilaterally with partner organisations in light of key upcoming milestones (e.g. UNHCR Bulgaria’s 30 year anniversary) (initially with direct implementing partners, later to be expanded to RRP partners). There will be also activities in connection with the Global Refugee</p>		

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	<p>Forum, to take place at the end of 2023 in Geneva. UNHCR has also completed the first ever Ethnical Communications Guidelines, published on 23 January, looking at how to elevate the voices of displaced persons while keeping in ethical considerations. The Guideline has a chapter for UNHCR partners (should be available for circulation soon).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USRF/Natalia asked about Global Refugee Forum participation; UNHCR/Boris clarified that attendance in person will be possible, there will be a Bulgarian delegation and civil society actors are most welcome as a whole-of-society approach is promoted. Bulgaria has had several pledges in the past years (e.g. on statelessness). More information will follow later in the year. <p>BRC/Dr. Sofia informed that financial assistance has been provided to 27,102 people and the target of 30,000 has been almost reached. The communication campaign is ongoing for registration before 31 January 2023, and a second grant for payment will commence in February. Seven humanitarian points are functioning, and 15,000 hygiene kits are in process of purchase. BRC has received 5,000 sleeping kits and 3,000 food parcels should be received by the end of January. The medicines reimbursement program is planned to commence in February. BRC is also working on the revision of their Action Plan for the appeal.</p>	
5W service mapping	<p>UNHCR/Aleksandar presented the 5W dashboard with inputs received so far. The data is still a work in progress, the total number of activities reported so far is 270, with 17 active organizations in 7 cities. The activities are grouped in the key sectors. The online version will soon be shared with the participants.</p>	
AOB	<p>UNHCR/Rukiya provided an update on inter-agency PSEA network related developments – UNICEF and UNHCR are working together on the establishment of the PSEA network and have drafted the Terms of Reference for PSEA focal points. The IAWG will reach out to participants to appoint a PSEA focal point and an alternate per organization. The participants can address questions to UNHCR/Rukiya (abdulazi@unhcr.org), UNICEF/Diana Yovcheva (dyovcheva@unicef.org) and Dani Koleva (dkoleva@unicef.org)</p> <p>Inter-Agency Coordination Officer introduced UNHCR Senior Public Health Officer Dr. Gebrewold Petrus, on mission to Bulgaria until the end of the week.</p>	
Next Meeting	<p>Date: 7 February 2023. The next IACWG will be held in present at UNHCR 1st floor conference room and online on teams – hybrid</p> <p>Location: UNHCR Office 1st floor conference room and online on teams – hybrid</p> <p>Time: 10.00-11.00 hrs.</p>	