



Inter-Agency Refugee Education Working Group (IREWG)

Meeting Details	
Date	23 rd May 2024
Time	1:00-2:30pm
Chair	Chair: Dr. Ivan Duminica, Head of the Policy Service for Interethnic Relations, Ministry of Education and Research (MER) Co- chairs: Katie Lampe, Child Protection Officer, UNHCR; Irina Gincu, Education Specialist, UNICEF
Email	lampe@unhcr.org ; ivan.duminica@mec.gov.md , ombaka@unhcr.org ; igincu@unicef.org
Agenda	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Update from the Ministry of Education on:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ School enrollment statistics○ Main takeaways from Education Week, particularly the refugee inclusion event○ Update on the plans for 9th and 12th grade Ukrainian students in regard to the Romanian language exams○ Exam procedures for Ukrainian students studying online, who wish to take graduation exams in Moldova○ Update on a school visit in Glodeni• Presentation of comparative analysis of the number of children with Temporary Protection vs. number of children enrolled in local schools, by raion• Presentation of Romanian language class mapping/dashboard• Presentation of children's summer activities• Presentation on safety audit findings related to education• Update on Spertanta 87's activities	



Information collection and relevant links		
Activity Info Platform: https://www.activityinfo.org		
Participants		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dr. Ivan Duminica, MER - Katie Lampe, UNHCR - Irina Gincu - UNICEF - Carolina Sclifos- UNHCR - Sara Sirkova - UNHCR - Mary Ombaka, UNHCR - Diana Alexei, Chisinau Municipality - Natalia Balta, Pestalozzi Children's Foundation - Kovalchuk Anna, National Youth Council of Moldova - Berfu Nisan Gur, WeWorld 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maher Daboul, NRC - Yuliia Zenchenko, Ukrainian Women Refugee Network - Olha Stus, Ukrainian Women Refugee Network - Nina Cusnir – Tarna Roma - Ion Duminica- Roma Task Force - Vera Gurievschi, World Vision - Jana Nagnitschenko , UNFPA/ GBV SWG - Bună ziua, Aliona Babachişvili, CNPAC - Maria Pîslaraş - Charity Centre for Refugees - Iurie, US Embassy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suroutou Dmitri- Peope In Need - Martin Kunze- Youth One World - Anteneh Mekonnen- World Vision - Veronica Dragan – Centre de Caritate pentru refugiatii - Berfu Nisan Gur, WeWorld - Djavid Paknehad, CCR - Mihail Platinda (UNICEF)- Moldova - Buna ziua, Diana Panainte, CCF - Ana Palii- SI PM Soc.Coh. - Ion Gonta, WB

Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
Welcome and presentation of agenda	UNHCR co-chair Katie Lampe opened the meeting and thanked members who had attended both in person and online. She asked those attending in person to introduce themselves and outlined the meeting agenda.	Agenda agreed.
1. Update on Children's enrolment in schools and other MER activities.	<p>MER chair, Dr. Ivan Duminica shared the latest updates as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Enrolment of Ukrainian children in Moldovan schools:</u> 728 Ukrainian children (374 girls, 354 boys) are enrolled in Moldovan kindergartens, compared to 703 in March 2024. 1603 Ukrainian children are enrolled in Moldovan schools (grades 1-12), compared to 1601 in March 2024. 	




	<p>A total of 2331 refugee children are enrolled in Moldovan kindergartens and schools compared to 2314 children in March.</p> <p>MER noted that vaccination is a pre-condition for enrolment of children in Moldovan schools as a vaccination certificate is required during enrolment. In Glodeni raion, some parents have expressed opposition to vaccines, but awareness raising campaigns are currently being conducted on vaccination.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Romanian language exams for 9th and 12th grade students:</u> Refugee children attending 12th grade in Moldovan schools will need to take the Romanian language exam but will take the version used in Russian language schools, where Romanian is taught as a second language. MER stated that after the exams are graded, if a significant number of students don't pass, MER will review their approach. However, he confirmed that failing the Romanian language exam will not prevent students from pursuing further education.• <u>Ukrainian exams for Ukrainian children studying online:</u> Following consultations with the government of Ukraine, 190 Ukrainian children that are studying online and have registered for exams are scheduled to sit for exams from 1st-6th June 2024 in Moldova. Exams will be conducted at the State Technical University. MER will be present to support with exam proctoring. Make up exam sessions (16-17 June) are not available in Moldova (but in several nearby countries). However, if MER receives many requests from Ukrainian students to take make-up exams, they will explore with MIA if there is a possibility to request Ukraine to allow Moldova to also administer a make-up exam session.• <u>Education Week:</u> Dr. Duminica said that the events of the Education week were conducted on 28th April 2024 and the topic for the week was "Moldova for Education." It was organized by MER under the President of the Republic of Moldova. This was the first time that Moldova was organizing this event and it was supported by UNDP, UNHCR, Sweden, UNFPA, and the World Bank. He said that the event underscored the importance of education, outlining challenges that the sector/ department was facing and noting suggestions on solving the challenges.• <u>Refugee inclusion Roundtable on 26 April:</u> The event brought together all education stakeholders including partners and Ukrainian parents. Marginalized, minority and at-risk groups were represented at the round table. Participants discussed progress and challenges in education for refugee children. In addition, they suggested important steps toward the integration of refugee children in Moldovan public schools and the necessity for promoting collaboration by partners and all stakeholders.• <u>Joint Visit to Glodeni RAC:</u>	
--	--	--



	<p>MER, UNHCR, UNICEF, and Tarna Rom, and the Roma TF jointly conducted an education mission to Glodeni on 21 May. The RAC currently has 25 school age children, about half of whom currently attend Tarna Rom’s literacy classes but are not enrolled in the local school. In discussions with parents, they agreed for their children to attend the local school in September but expressed hesitation about vaccinations. Parents agreed to send children to school but they were reluctant to have children vaccinated. During a meeting at the nearby Lev Tolstoy Theoretical High school, an action plan was agreed on with the school director and director of the local Directorate of Education, to support the enrollment of school age children in the RAC in September. Attached, please see Dr. Duminica’s presentation, English and Romanian in the links below.</p> <p>https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/109191 https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/109192</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In response to a question about higher education and vocational training opportunities, MER mentioned that due to a bilateral agreement with Ukraine, the Moldovan government had provided the following scholarships to students at high education levels as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 25 scholarships for undergraduate and masters’ students- 10 scholarships for doctoral students- 5 scholarships for research interns.For technical and vocational education, Ukrainian students must pay, but they pay the same rate as Moldovan students, and not that of foreign students.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- MER provided data on number of scholarships that the government of Moldova made available to refugee children for bachelor’s and master’s degrees as well as for doctorate and internships positions
<p>2. Analysis by region of number of school age children with temporary protection (TP) vs children enrolled in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Data Analysis of School Age Children under TP Vs children enrolled:</u> UNHCR presented a comparison, by region and by Raion, the number of school age children with temporary protection compared to the number children enrolled in Moldovan schools, to identify locations with particularly low enrollment rates that might need targeted interventions. Insights into enrolment by raion and by region revealed that 16.6 percent of the raions had below 10 percent enrolment and that only 5% percent of the raions had enrolled over 50 percent of school age children. Comparison of girls’ and boys’ enrolment showed very little disparity between girls and boys. The data for school age children with TP	<p>The data will be cleaned and shared with EWG members. Additionally, analyses will be conducted, including potentially with children with legal statuses other than TP.</p>



<p>Moldovan schools</p>	<p>was obtained from IGM on 1st April whereas the MER data for children enrolled in school was dated 7th May.</p> <p>A question was asked on the availability of data sources to identify number of children that were out of school. The UNHCR co-chair noted certain data limitations, but also highlighted data sets available from IGM, the Border Police, UNHCR's data base, etc, which can be further analyzed with the support of Information Management colleagues analyzed data and comparison of enrolment by raion and region can be found in the attached document.</p> <p> Analysis of School Data-UNHCR-07.06.2.</p>	
<p>3. Updates on mapping of Romanian language classes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Romanian Language Classes</u> The UNHCR co-chair thanked all organizations that had submitted inputs on Romanian language classes which they conducted for Ukrainian refugees in various locations of Moldova. She explained how the map could be read effectively to identify locations where classes were being conducted and to see their frequency and meeting times. She said that UNHCR will continue to refine the map to be more user friendly. A question was raised on the possibility of including in the map a summary of the total number of classes. It was also noted that it would be helpful to highlight number of learners per class and total number of learners in all classes. Co-chair noted that partners had not provided this level of data in the information that they shared but this data will be considered for future reporting. The mapping can be found here: Microsoft Power BI.	<p>UNHCR will continue to improve the map, translate to Russian, and capture data on total number of classes offered.</p>
<p>4. Summer Camp activities for children and adolescents during the summer holiday break.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Children's Summer Camp Activities:</u> UNHCR thanked partners for their input on children's summer activities. Two documents were developed: a mapping to be used by partners for coordination purposes, and a colorful flyer to be shared with the community. It was noted that some details are missing, and the partners implementing the activities can be contacted directly for further information. Some activities are just for refugee children, while others integrate children from refugee and hosting communities. The documents will be updated in a few weeks, so partners can continue to share additional inputs.	<p>Updated version of summer activities will be added to the online link.</p>



	<p>A suggestion was shared to include camps run by Orange and Tekwill, which will be explored, as well as to highlight activities for children with special needs. The documents, including the translated versions, can be found here: link</p>	
5. GBV presentation on Safety Audit	<p>The Safety Audit was conducted in 2023 to look at risks adolescent girls faced and how to mitigate the risks. In FGDs conducted, it was noted that adolescent girls had experienced forms of sexual harassment on their way to school in public transport, but the harassment also extended to private spaces, including their homes. The study found out that because of the stigma associated with sexual harassment, the survivors were hesitant to report cases of sexual harassment. Roma girls experienced GBV, such as early marriage, which led them to not pursue education. See attached presentations.</p> <p>2023 GBV Safety Audit Presentation - https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/109187</p> <p>2024 GBV Safety Audit Report (RU) - https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/109188</p> <p>2024 GBV Safety Audit Report (RO) - https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/109189</p> <p>2024 GBV Safety Audit Report (EN) - https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/109190</p>	
6. Presentation by Hope 87 on children with special needs	<p>Hope 87 noted that their project is supported by UNICEF and sponsored by the governments of Norway and Italy. In the project, the agency is promoting inclusion through education activities for children with special needs. The agency had faced challenges of integrating these children into educational activities owing to the myths and fears within communities regarding such children, which resulted in parents hiding their children from the public. The presentation highlighted Hope 87's activities to overcome the challenges. See full presentation attached. - https://data.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/109186</p>	
7. AOB	<p>There being no other business and so the chair called the meeting to an end.</p>	