



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

Meeting Details	
<b>Date</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> June 2024
<b>Time</b>	1:00-2:30pm
<b>Chair</b>	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; Galina Bulat, Education Specialist, UNICEF
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Agenda	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update from MER<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ End of school year enrollment figures</li><li>○ Student performance on RO language exams and next steps</li><li>○ Update on facilitation to 12<sup>th</sup> grade exams for Ukrainian students studying online</li><li>○ Taras Shevchenko school visit update and plans</li></ul></li><li>• Presentation on Education Inclusion Roadmap and Action Plan (joint update by MER/UNHCR/UNICEF)<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Discussion with WG members on how they can support</li></ul></li><li>• Partner coordination on school enrolment support</li><li>• Update from Tarna Rom on school enrollment initiatives for Roma children.</li><li>• AOB</li></ul>	
Information collection and relevant links	
Activity Info Platform: <a href="https://www.activityinfo.org">https://www.activityinfo.org</a>	



Participants		
- Dr. Ivan Duminica - MER	- Sorina Pinzaru - OHCHR	- Suroutou Dmitri- Peope In Need
- Alisia Parfentieva - MER	- Olha Stus, Ukrainian Women Refugee Network	- Irina Basiye- National Congress of Ukrainians in Moldova (NCUM)
- Katie Lampe, UNHCR	- Liban Roman - CCR	- Oleseca Cazasu- National Congress of Ukrainians in Moldova (NCUM)
- Galina Bulat – UNICEF	- Ion Duminica- Roma Task Force	- Yurievski Yere- World Vision International
- Lucy Strickland – Plan International	- Vlad Oleatovschi- WeWorld	- Djavid Paknehad, CCR
- Diana Alexei, Chisinau Municipality	- Vera Gurievski, World Vision	- Eugenia Ciurca – UNHCR
- Mary Ombaka, UNHCR	- Maria Pislaraş - Charity Centre for Refugees	- Corina Tesu – REACH
- Martha Glover -Short- CRS	- Tabuncic Iurie, US Embassy.	- Olga Morozan – Pestalozzi Children’s Foundation
- Radica Jardan – CNPAC	- Lorina Ghitu – CCF	
- Lilia Gantatuc – Comisia Migratie	- Felicia Bulat – REACH/IMPACT	
- Luciana Bollati – PiN	- Irina Gincu – UNICEF	
- Andrea Cuzana - UNHCR		

**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 invited Dr. Duminica the chair to share the latest updates in the sector.	
1. MER Updates	<p>MER chair, Dr. Ivan Duminica shared the latest updates as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>End of school year enrollment figures: 2325</u> There was a total of 727 refugee children enrolled at kindergarten level, mostly 4-year-olds. 374 were girls while 353 boys. There were 1598 children enrolled in schools as of June 2024, compared to 1603 enrolled in May. Most of the children were in grades 1, 2 and 5. Majority of these children (88.86%) were enrolled in schools with Russian language of instruction. The number of children enrolled reduces drastically as one moves to higher 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> grades.</li> <li>• <u>Exams for Ukrainian students studying Online</u></li> </ul>	



	<p>Ukrainian refugee students who were studying online took the Ukrainian national exams in subjects comprising Ukrainian language, History, Mathematics and one optional subject of choice. At MER's request, the Technical University of Moldova provided four exam rooms equipped with 48 computers for use by candidates. A total of 190 candidates sat for the exams, out of 198 who registered for the exams, which were conducted from 1st through 6th June 2024. Candidates were drawn from Moldova, Bulgaria and Romania. Exams were supervised by personnel from Ukraine while MER oversaw the exercise on behalf of MER in Moldova. Ukrainian government will publish results for candidates on its official website <a href="https://testportal.gov.ua/">https://testportal.gov.ua/</a> in August 2024.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <u>Visit to Taras Shevchenko Gymnasium</u><p>At the request of MER, a visit by EWG co-leads comprising UNICEF, UNHCR and MER was made to Taras Shevchenko Gymnasium. Joining the team were members of the NGO Female Support Force and the school management represented by the director, Ms. Angela Moizecovici. During the visit, suggestions were made on the possibility of opening Romanian-Ukrainian classes in the school.</p><p>It was agreed that there was enough space in the school to open classes as follows:</p><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Ukrainian classes for grades 1 and 4. These would be taught Ukrainian language as well as Romanian and English languages.</li><li>○ Romanian -Ukrainian 5<sup>th</sup> grade will be opened, and the two languages used as media of instruction and teachers identified accordingly.</li></ul></li><li>- Two additional teachers would be identified, but Romanian and English languages would be taught by the current teachers of the Gymnasium. MER provided detailed qualification requirements of the candidates expected to fit the description of Ukrainian teachers that MER needed at the school.</li><li>- Recruitment of Ukrainian learners of grades 1, 4 and 5 would be announced through various media networks including the Ukrainian parents' network, the Interagency Refugee Education Working Group (IREWG) coordinated by MER, UNHCR and UNICEF, and other relevant networks.</li><li>- Renovation and provision of hardware and software components to the school would be conducted as follows:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Primary school teachers' training will be conducted in August 2024. The training will be conducted by trainers with teaching experience in primary schools in Ukraine.</li><li>○ The school psychologist's contract would be extended despite the gymnasium not meeting the minimal requirement of 200 learners to qualify for a psychologist. Taras</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Dr. Duminica gave detailed requirements of desired candidates for teaching posts at Taras Shevchenko gymnasium for wide coverage during advertising.</li></ul>
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	<p>Shevchenko was considered exceptional as the gymnasium would be expected to offer psychosocial support to refugee children.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Social cohesion</i>- There is a request to organize activities to promote team dynamics in September by bringing together parents and children from local and refugee communities.</li> <li>○ <i>School Feeding</i> –A general need was identified on implementation of school feeding programme at the gymnasium.</li> <li>○ <i>Renovation &amp; Rehabilitation of Infrastructure</i>- rehabilitation of the school infrastructure including classrooms, sports hall, cafeteria, and classroom furniture will be necessary to attract more children to the school.</li> </ul>	
<p>2. Presentation on Education Inclusion Roadmap and Action Plan</p>	<p>UNHCR co-chair presented the draft Education Inclusion Roadmap and Action Plan for the inclusion of refugee children in Moldovan schools to the sector members. The document highlights 8 main areas where interventions are needed. Sector members were requested to review and provide comments to the document, whose costing is being done simultaneously with the ongoing review. Partners were reminded to highlight components that they felt capable of funding so that such components could be exempted from the overall costing of the document. Having been designed for fundraising, Dr. Duminica said that plans were underway to present the document to a donors’ roundtable forum.</p> <p>UNICEF co-chair Galina Bulat drew members’ attention to the respective components of the document including Romanian language and ALP, underlining the importance of ensuring that all components in the document were integrated in education programming for effective inclusion of all profiles of children. On the issue of Taras Shevchenko, the co-chair said that UNHCR, UNICEF, and other partners were coordinating on various responsibilities pertaining to rehabilitation of infrastructure to ensure that the school was ready for children’s enrolment at the start of the new school year in September.</p>	<p>Sector members to add inputs to roadmap/action plan document.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Partner coordination on school enrolment support</li> </ul>	<p>UNHCR co-chair presented partners with a simple common template for conducting campaigns on school enrolments during July and August months of summer holidays. An example was presented of Tarna Rom, which had been conducting a series of activities in Glodeni RAC to ensure that Roma children at the RAC were enrolled in the school nearby the RAC.</p> <p>Sector members were urged to use the template for coordinating school enrollment advocacy and support activities.</p>	<p>Sector partners to complete template to facilitate coordination.</p>



	<p>During question time, a partner from National Congress of Ukrainians in Moldova (NCUM) said that they were planning to release messaging on success stories and best practices to appeal to Ukrainian refugees to enroll more children in school, under UNICEF’s banner of Back-to-School campaigns. According to NCUM, such messages would be released within a period of two weeks and shared with the sector for widespread dissemination.</p>	
<p>3. Presentation by Tarna Rom</p>	<p>Marin Alla of Tarna Rom gave a presentation on his views on how to improve enrolment in schools for Roma students by putting an emphasis on changing perceptions of the Roma refugee parents. He noted that there is need for more awareness raising for attitude change amongst the Roma refugee community. He also highlighted some of Tarna Rom’s current activities in the education sector.</p>	
<p>5. AOB</p>	<p>There being no other business and so the chair called the meeting to an end.</p>	