



SECTOR: Child Protection Sub-Working Group (CP SWG)

Meeting Details		
Date	30 October 2024	
Time	15:00 – 16:30	
Chair	UNICEF/UNHCR	
Reporting	UNICEF	
Email	lampe@unhcr.org , frossi@unicef.org	
Agenda		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intersectoral meeting update • CFS and mobile team mapping/dashboard update • RRP update • 2025 planning and Blue Dot transition • Update on UASC at BCPs • RAC consolidation update • Bogota conference and government pledge on ending VAC • AOB 		
Information collection and relevant links		
Please use the below link to fill out information		
Link to operational data portal: https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784		
Participants		
1- Flore Rossi/UNICEF (Co-chair)	Dan/Intersos	Valentina Ghenciu
2- Katie Lampe/UNHCR (Co-chair)	Marcel / LUMOS	Cusnir Nina
3- Tatiana Danilescu/ UNICEF	Virgiliu Hangan/ P4EC	TdH
4- Carolina Sc lifos/UNHCR	Diana Alexei/Chisinau	Valeria Bragarenco
5- Mihail/UNICEF	municipality	Victor Rotaras/APSCF
6- Natalia/UNHCR	Corneliu/OIM	Solomenco
7- Natalia/ CCF	Domnica Ginu	Ariana Benosso/AiBi



Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
Intersectoral meeting update	<p>Flore (UNICEF) – The intersectoral meeting was organized by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and was chaired by the State Secretary, Mr. Cusca, with the Child Protection Department. It is part of a larger initiative organized by the Prime Minister’s office to create a national Integration Plan for Foreigners. The goal of the meeting was to discuss the inputs of MLSP in regards to integration of “foreign” children in the social and Child Protection system. The meeting was attended by representatives of the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, representatives of ATAS and STAS, representatives of child protection CSOs and NGOs.</p> <p>It was discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The Ministry highlighted that all children in Moldova, regardless of legal status, have access to the national child protection system, and is committed that all children in need, regardless of status, will be integrated into the system.- How to assist the Ministry in creating a comprehensive plan, including costing, as well as how much it will cost the Ministry for refugees to access the minimum social service package, focusing on children at risk of family separation, neglect, abuse, and violence.- UNICEF and UNHCR presented the current activities of the Child Protection Sub working Group members, the priorities, and identified gaps within the child protection system. They also presented on RRP activities and priorities for the child protection sector for 2025-2026.- The Ministry highlighted its priorities for addressing gaps and developing a plan to further integrate refugee children, and acknowledged challenges in human resources and budget constraints to support the social services for both Moldovan and refugee populations.- The Ministry called for better and increasing support from different donors, but also NGOs to help to consolidate the child protection system, to strengthen the system, and to make sure that we all work together to strengthen the services and the system, including the social services workforce.- It has been highlighted also the need to better coordination between the different ministries and local services, including education.- The ministry highlighted also that they are grateful for the support of all partners, including all CPSWG members.	<p>The Ministry shared the minutes, which we will circulate with CPSWG members.</p>



RRP update	Katie (UNHCR) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The review of the submitted projects is on-going and will be finalized by the end of the month. The next step is for the Interagency team to consolidate Moldova’s inputs and share with the Regional Bureau for publication.- Some organizations might be contacted bilaterally to follow up in case there is something unclear.- A draft of the narrative for our sector, was already submitted, considering the inputs of everyone.	
RAC consolidation update	Natalia (UNHCR) shared an update on the RAC consolidation process. See attached presentation for more details. Flore (UNICEF) – Noted that UNICEF is following up the specific aspect related to child protection linked to the closure of the RACs. E.g., Ave Copiii, with the support of UNICEF deployed some social assistants in the RACs that are going to be closed, mainly T6, to follow up on the families and children, to do a child protection screening and to ensure that the specific needs of children are addressed and to link the families with the social services where the families are going to be relocated. Q . Flore (UNICEF) – Asked if other closures planned soon or for the moment if it's only T6 and Doina? Natalia (UNHCR) – Noted that they had meetings with the MLSP and advocated to slow a bit the process for the winter period. MLSP is very much aware and understands it's a difficult period to close the centers. But until now there is not a clear answer. Q. Flore (UNICEF) – Asked whether there are any specific challenges related to the situation of children and if there is any advice for CP SWG parnters working in the RACs in terms not only for T6 and Doina but maybe for all the RACs? Natalia (UNHCR) – Mentioned that whatever vulnerabilities or issues with children the Shelter team identifies, they refer it immediately to our UNHCR colleagues and they provide the necessary support. Q. Marcel (Lumos) - How does the process of RACs closure work? Natalia (UNHCR) – Explained that this process did not start recently. 15 or more RACs have been closed already. It's very complex, and many other organizations are part of this process together with MLSP: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Initially the process started with the assessment of infrastructure, WASH facilities, living conditions etc. of all the RACs. Based on this assessment the RACs that received a lower score were closed. A few centers also asked for closure themselves, even though they were not part of this closure	



	<p>strategy, such as T6 and Doina.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- When RACs are selected for closure as part of the consolidation strategy, MLSP writes a letter to the manager to announce about the closure of the RAC.- The manager then announces the news to the RAC residents, and then an MFT visit is organized with partners from rental assistance and protection.- During the MFT, a meeting with all the refugees that are in the center is organized. MLSP is the first who presents, informing the refugees that the center is closing, and then each partner presents their program, the details of rental assistance, and other support that can be provided throughout this process.- The case managers have discussions with each family separately, identify all the vulnerabilities and then they together with UNHCR, MLSP and partners decide the best option for the relocation of the family.- Later, if a family applies for rental assistance, they discussion directly with the rental assistance partner. Partners are providing all the information that they need. The refugees are the ones looking for an apartment. Later, the rental assistance partners visit to see if the selected accommodation has minimum living conditions.	
<p>Update on UASC at BCPs</p>	<p>Katie (UNHCR) – Noted that an updated was given last month that the co-leads have been following up on the topic of USAC at BCPs, together with the MLSP as well as the MiA, and that recently the co-chairs had a meeting on this topic with the State Secretary from the Ministry of Internal Affairs.</p> <p>Since then, UNHCR and UNICEF wrote a joint letter, on behalf of the Child Protection Sub working Group, as a follow-up to the meeting, to highlight some of the points discussed and to highlight that they think it's urgent to find a solution. We're waiting for feedback on this.</p> <p>She noted that there continue to be cases of unaccompanied or separated children or children with other forms of risk who are not referred at the border crossing points to the guardianship authority when they should be, and that this remains a big concern. The CP SWG co-chairs are trying to work together with all the relevant government counterparts to find a solution.</p> <p>It was noted that if partners hear of cases related to this topic, to please feel free to bring any new concerns to the attention of the CP SWG so that they can address in their ongoing advocacy on this topic.</p>	



	<p>Q. Marcel (Lumos) - Do you have an updated number of how many unaccompanied or separated children and refugee children are there in Moldova?</p> <p>Katie (UNHCR) - We haven't received an update from the MLSP lately, but we can check with them. We do have some statistics from some of the partners working with these groups of children.</p> <p>Flore (UNICEF) - <i>Shared in the chat - According to STAS data, as of September 1, 2024, there were 4 unaccompanied children and 8 unauthorized accompanied children, of which 1 child was placed in foster care, 3 children were placed under guardianship, and 8 children were in custody. In the country: a total of 194 UASC cases (188 separated children and 6 unaccompanied) are still opened and are under assistance.</i></p> <p>Please consider that there are some differences between what partners are reporting and sometimes what the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection registers.</p>	
<p>CFS and mobile team mapping/dashboard update</p>	<p>Katie (UNHCR) – shared the CFS and mobile teams' dashboard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 22 organizations submitted their CFS and/or mobile teams - The data were collected during the summer. - It is a little complex to update this dashboard. If there are any major errors, like your organization is no longer working on these activities or something like this, let us know and we'll try to fix it. - In early 2025 we will do an update of this dashboard (updates are planned to be done quarterly). - The dashboard will be public, but we'll share separately just to the working group, a spreadsheet with the contact information for each organization. If you do want to reach out for some coordination, you'll have the relevant contact details. 	<p>Contact list to be shared with CP SWG members.</p>
<p>2025 planning and Blue Dot transition</p>	<p>Flore (UNICEF) – Shared 2025 priorities, which are based on what CP SWG members are doing currently in Moldova, as well as on the needs that have been shared by all the CPSWG members, and through the analysis and the assessment done for the child protection sector:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Due to a decrease of the needs in terms of assistance, but also in terms of number of children and caregivers crossing, UNICEF will gradually close the Blue Dots at the border crossing points. And there will be a transition phase happening at the end of the year. We will not stop child protection interventions at the border crossing points. Instead, mainly we are going to continue to support the guardianship authorities and the border police to identify children at risk and to ensure referral to the appropriate services, including for UASC. - It remains important to maintain some fixed child-friendly space interventions in different 	<p>We can go at the December CPSWG meeting is to go a bit deeper in the discussion with all the members to plan the priorities and to</p>



	<p>community centers and to maintain the mobile teams. It allows us to reach the most vulnerable refugees, including in RACs, informal RACs, and different rural locations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- More attention should be focused on children with disabilities and Roma children. We need to ensure that they can better access some child protection and social services. Currently UNHCR, UNICEF, with the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and other ministries, are doing a review of the barriers for refugee children with disabilities to access disability certificates and some of the services. If your organization is providing some support, please make sure to target refugee children with disabilities and Roma children.- Integration process - all the children and caregivers in need should have access to social services, social assistance, and child protection assistance. For all partners currently involved in child protection intervention, please make sure that when you work at the local level in your different locations, to link your intervention with the local authorities, the local services, and to jointly work with the community social workers, the child protection specialists. <p>Katie (UNHCR) - The linkage with education is very important. The number of children enrolled in school has increased, but there's still quite a lot of room for improvement. As we've discussed before, it's important to think about how we can link support with education through the child protection case management process, as of course being in a safe school setting is a protective factor for children.</p>	<p>make sure that we coordinate well our action.</p>
<p>Bogota conference and government pledge on ending VAC</p>	<p>Flore (UNICEF) - The government of Colombia with the government of Sweden and with the support of UNICEF and WHO are organizing the first inter-ministerial conference on ending violence against children in Bogota, Colombia, on 7-9 November. It's a global conference. UNICEF Moldova has been active to engage the government of Moldova in this conference. A delegation from MLSP will attend and the government of Moldova already prepared a pledge to commit to end violence against children in Moldova. MLSP on behalf of the government of Moldova pledged:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- To invest more in the human, financial and infrastructure resources to support children in need or children at risk and victim of violence. There is a strong commitment from the government to continue the investments and to maintain the new child protection specialists in the field of protection of child rights that have been hired by the government and to continue to increase the capacity of social workers to ensure that there is a continuum of human resources involved in child protection in the country.	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- To ensure that services are available for children at risk and victims of violence. The Government of the Republic of Moldova pledged to maintain the minimum package of services to ensure adequate response to children who are victims or at risk, but also to scale up or develop new services (e.g. Barnahus center).- To do more in terms of awareness and prevention, highlighting the need to continue to raise awareness with the community, with families, and in schools, about the risk that children face in terms of violence, including sexual violence and online violence.	More details will be shared after the conference.
AOB	Katie (UNHCR) – The last meeting of 2025 will be either end of November or beginning of December, to wrap things up and then take a break for the holidays. The final meeting will be to wrap up this year, as well as to discuss more in depth about next year. We would love also, for the last meeting, to hear from you if there's a topic you'd like to present about or you'd like us to find someone to present about. Please, we're very open to add items to the agenda.	