**Refugee Education Working Group (REWG)**

| **Meeting Details** | |
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| **Date** | 30th July 2026 |
| **Time** | 1:00-2:30pm |
| **Chair** | Chair: Alisia Parfentieva, Superior Consultant, Policy Service for Interethnic Relations, Ministry of Education and Research (MER);<br>Co- chairs: Carolina Sclifos, Senior Child Protection Associate, UNHCR, Corneliu Tarus, Programme Officer, UNICEF |
| **Email** | alisia.parfentieva@mec.gov.md; sclifos@unchr.org; ctarus@unicef.org |

**Agenda**

| Agenda point | Time | Focal Point |
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| **1. Opening remarks from Dr. Ivan Duminica:**<br>● Welcoming of members of REWG<br>● Presentation of MER´s priorities | 13:00 – 13:15 | MER |
| **2. Updates from the Ministry of Education and Research**<br>● Admission process and the roundtables<br>● The data from TP extension | 13:15 – 13:40 | MER |
| **3. Updates from Secondary School nr. 8 „Taras Șevcenco”**<br>● Presentation of the School´s history<br>● The data on enrollment of students<br>● The data on Moldovan and Ukrainian teachers<br>● Implemented projects for the revitalization of school premises<br>● Plans for future revitalization (partners and members of REWG) | 13:40 – 14:00 | MER |

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| **4. AoB (UNICEF, UNHCR, CCR and other members)** | 14:00 - 14:30 | All participants |

**Information collection and relevant links**

Data on Temporary Protection beneficiaries and their educational status (attached)

Teacher vacancy - https://www.dilo.md/uk/job?job_job=1699

There is an urgent need to recruit the following teaching staff:

- **Two primary school teachers**;
- **One mathematics teacher**;
- **One informatics teacher**;
- **One physics teacher**;
- **One geography teacher**;
- **Two Romanian language teachers** with experience teaching Ukrainian- or Russian-speaking children; and
- **One librarian**.

Information for Ukrainian refugee children on admission to universities (attached)

- List of colleges and vocational schools 2026-2027
- Instructions for admission to higher education institutions of the Republic of Moldova
- Instructions for admission to colleges and vocational institutions in the Republic of Moldova
- The Refugee Green Line closure – transition of support

**Participants**

- Ivan Duminica - MER
- Alisia Parfentieva – MER
- Carolina Sclifos – UNHCR
- Corneliu Taurus – UNICEF
- Diana Alexei– Primăria Municipiului Chișinău
- Tatiana Pusca – CRS
- Sorina Pinzaru – MER
- Katerina Rohanova – UNHCR
- Sergiu Gaina – UNHCR
- Djavid Paknehad – CCR
- Cristina Savin – NRC
- Dmitri Surovtov – People in Need
- Angela Moizesovici – Taras Sevcenco
- Veronica Dragan – CCR
- Arsen Basarab – MER
- Yasmina Stupak – MER
- Rodica Jardan – Caritas Moldova
- Cristina Timbur - ProDidactica
- Olga Morozan – PCF
- Natalia Balta - PCF
- Marta Sterpu – Plan International Moldova
- Olga Pinzari - CRS
- Felicia Bulat –IMPACT/ REACH Initiative
- Olesia Skoryk – iNGO Forum

**Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points**

| Agenda | Discussion | Agreements/ Actions |
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| **1. Opening remarks from Dr. Ivan Duminica** | Dr. Ivan Duminica opened the meeting, welcomed partners and thanked the members who attended, both in person and online. He highlighted the 4th year of the REWG activity, emphasizing that inter-agency collaboration has successfully integrated over 2,000 children into the general education system. MER set three strategic critical priorities for following months: (1) Identification and integration of out-of-school refugee children, including children from Roma minority, (2) Recruitment of Ukrainian-speaking teachers, (3) Renovating school infrastructure to ensure good learning environments. | |
| **2. Updates from MER** | MER presented the information about three roundtables/information sessions organized in collaboration with the Female Support Force (FSF) and UNHCR's support on the educational admission process. | MER to follow up with IGM to obtain updated temporary protection registration data for the |

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| | • **The roundtable admission to general education** , organized on July 8 presented the Order 1116/2026, which grants a 10% quota for refugee students in high schools (lyceums) per profile, provided they have a minimum admission grade of 5.0. Temporary Protection (TP) holders are exempt from notarizing or translating documents; schools must assist parents in completing applications. It was not that under Order 1034/2024, students arriving to Moldova after January 1, 2024, can be exempted from the Romanian language exam at the 9th-grade level, with the option to take it later in 10th or 11th grade.<br>• **The roundtable on admission to vocational education** on July 13 highlighted the Government Order 900/2026: Refugees pay the same admission and tuition fees as Moldovan citizens and the budget-funded spots available for Ukrainians who have at least one parent of Moldovan ethnicity. A circular sent on June 19 provided admission commissions with a direct link to the Ukrainian Ministry of Education to verify the diplomas digitally, ensuring the authenticity of the documents and avoiding the need for notarized copies.<br>• **The roundtable on admission to higher education ,** organized on July 15, highlighted that refugee candidates have priority status for budget spots allocated for foreign nationals. Following advocacy, the Medical University agreed to remove the requirement for two parental signatures for minor applicants, allowing a single parent's signature to suffice. A current challenge remains the high cost of student dormitories for refugees compared to the price for local students, which the MER is investigating in hopes of providing a positive response for Ukrainian refugees.<br>• **2026 Summer Camp Programs for Children and Adolescents**<br>The MER provided a comprehensive update on summer recreational activities, highlighting the Government Decision approved on May 13, 2026. Under this framework, the Ministry allocated 375 camp vouchers specifically dedicated to refugee children, asylum seekers, and beneficiaries of temporary protection. Additionally, provisions were made to include children from Ukraine affected by the armed conflict. "Speranța" camp in Rădoaia, Sîngerei successfully hosted 120 refugee children from various backgrounds. The second round (August 10-19, 2026) is scheduled to host 255 children from Ukraine. A monitoring visit was conducted on July 27 by the MER, UNHCR, and CCR, concluding the finalisation of the sumer camp and the Ministry expressed | period after 30 April 2026 and to agree on next steps for identifying and supporting children who are not enrolled in either the Moldovan or Ukrainian education system. |

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| | significant gratitude to the Charity Centre for Refugees (CCR) for their rapid and efficient identification of children for the summer camp.<br><br>● **The data from TP extension**<br><br>Sorina Pinzaru, Education Officer, presented an analysis of declarative data collected by the General Inspectorate for Migration (IGM) during the TP extension period, by the end of April 2026. Based on the data collected between 1 February and 30 April 2026, a total of 47,614 beneficiaries registered in the Republic of Moldova applied for an extension of temporary protection. This includes 10,657 children, whose educational status was declared in their applications. Reported: 93.5% of children (7–17) are enrolled in education (45% in Moldovan schools, 48.5% online in Ukraine ). However, 474 school-aged children (7–17) and 1,935 preschoolers (0–6) are confirmed as not enrolled in any system. Preschoolers are at the highest risk, with 57.1% not attending kindergarten. A more detailed report is provided in annex to the REWG meeting minutes.<br><br>Sergiu Gaina, UNHCR Legal Officer, noted that according to trends Moldova's refugee population continues to grow, with over 55,000 people now holding temporary protection. It was also noted the current influx of 400–500 new individuals which are registering for temporary protection every week. Of these, approximately 100–150 are children. Critically, 80–90 of these children are school-aged (7–17 years old), meaning the system must accommodate roughly 350 new students every month. Regarding the 474 school-aged children identified as not being in the education system, it was argued that many of these children likely arrived recently (between January and July 2026) and are waiting for the start of the new academic year in September to register, rather than being permanently out of school. UNHCR also raised concerns about children in the Transnistrian region who are often left with relatives and lack the proper parental documentation to move or enroll in schools and emphasized the necessity for the MER to share updated data on TP from IGM regularly, to track enrollment trends in dynamics rather than through static - one-time reports.<br><br>MER concluded that it is finalizing a formal data-sharing agreement with the IGM to receive more frequent and raw data updates. | |
| **3. Updates from Secondary School nr. 8 „Taras Șevcenco”** | The director of the Taras Șevcenco school Angela Moizesovici provided a detailed report on the school´s rapid evolution, noting it has grown from 150 students in 2023 to 472 students currently enrolled – more than 300% increase. The school now operates 20 classes, 12 of which offer classes in Ukrainian, making it an exceptional educational opportunity for Ukrainian refugees in Europe. | The MER will officially circulate the list of **teacher vacancies** to all partners and the National Congress of |

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| | Secondary School nr. 8 „Taras Șevcenco" has undergone several significant renovation projects supported by international partners and the Moldovan government. These completed projects have focused on upgrading essential common areas and pilot classrooms to create a more functional and welcoming environment for its rapidly growing student number. The following renovation projects which have been finished: Main Sport Hall, School Canteen, Medical Office, Psychologist´s Office, Locker Rooms, Classrooms and Digital Infrastructure.<br><br>While several areas have been renovated, many classrooms remain in terrible condition with broken windows dating back to 1967. The MER emphasized that parents are often discouraged by these poor physical conditions when considering the child's enrollment.<br><br>Partners shared specific updates on upcoming projects to improve the school's infrastructure or provision of equipment<br><br>● **People in Need (PIN), supported by JICA,** announced a project worth approximately €62,000 focused on infrastructure and educational equipment. This includes new furniture provision and modernizing classrooms by September/October 2026.<br>● **The National Congress of Ukrainians in Moldova (NCUM), supported by the Czech Embassy,** is initiating a capital renovation of the science laboratory (Physics or Chemistry). The project includes the main classroom and the adjacent laboratory. Implementation is pending the receipt of a VAT 0 (tax exemption) certificate.<br>● **UNICEF, supported by the Government of Norway,** will equip grade 2 and grade 4 classes with two interactive whiteboards, computers, and new ergonomic furniture for both students and teachers.<br>● **The General Directorate of Education Chisinau** is currently funding the repair of the roof and the installation of new lighting systems in the Assembly Hall.<br>● **Svetlana Rogovschi** is sponsoring the restoration and modernization of the school museum.<br>● **MER** confirmed new desks for the six new Ukrainian classes opening this year.<br><br>There is an urgent need to recruit the following teaching staff:<br><br>● **Two primary school teachers**;<br>● **One mathematics teacher**;<br>● **One informatics teacher**;<br>● **One physics teacher**; | Ukrainians to assist in identifying qualified candidates among the refugee population. |

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| | • **One geography teacher**;<br>• **Two Romanian language teachers** with experience teaching Ukrainian- or Russian-speaking children; and<br>• **One librarian**.<br><br>The primary barrier to recruitment is the salary-to-rent gap; a teacher's salary (approx. 7,400 MDL) is insufficient to cover the high cost of rent in Chișinău. While the school has received 12 types of textbooks from the Ukrainian Embassy, there is still a significant discrepancy between the Moldovan and Ukrainian educational programs, requiring teachers to adapt materials manually.<br><br>Dr. Ivan Duminică announced a major strategic update for the school's future, noting that the Ministry is planning to grant Lyceum status to the Taras Shevchenko Gymnasium; this transition will allow current 9th-grade students to continue their high school education (10th–12th grade) within the same institution, providing them with educational continuity and eliminating the need to transfer to a different school after graduation. Partners were encouraged to follow the "Adopt a Classroom" model (approx. €10,000 per room) to complete the renovation of the remaining floors in Taras Șevcenco. | |
| **4. AoB (UNICEF, UNHCR, CCR and other members)** | • **UNHCR updates:**<br><br>UNHCR co-chair shared the newly developed leaflets (shared as attachment) bye Female Support Force, in coordination with MER, UNHCR and UNICEF. One leaflet covers the college level (vocational) and the other covers universities. They were designed to address common questions and barriers identified during the admission roundtables.<br><br>Further, UNHCR updated the members that UNHCR partner, AVE Copiii, reported that 42 children were newly enrolled in mandatory education between January and June 2026. Many of these students were identified through the "Divertis" educational center or via case management for children at risk. For the upcoming school year, for children in vulnerable situations, facilitating their return to school.<br><br>• **UNHCR co-chair informed about:**<br><br>the scheduled closure of the UNHCR Refugee "Green Line" on August 1, 2026. Support is transitioning toward government-managed hotlines under the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection, the General Inspectorate of Police, and specific NGOs.. The shift reflects a broader transition from emergency response to sustainable, state-led services. | UNHCR to share the Green Line Closure leaflets detailing the new government contact numbers and relevant contacts. |

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| | On education, the list includes the number of Public Relations, Petitions, and Hearings Service under the MER . However, it was noted that the relevant focal points from MER, UNICEF, UNHCR and partners providing education support can also be reached.<br><br>• **Charity Centre for Refugees (CCR) updates:**<br><br>Djavid Paknehad, director of Charity Center for Refugees, reported significant success in Romanian language classes, with 900 participants (including 500 children) enrolled in various formats in 2025. He highlighted that 785 refugees are now studying in Moldovan universities. Mr. Paknehad expressed encouragement at the growing demand for Romanian language skills from both Ukrainians and host community members on both banks of the Nistru river.<br><br>CCR noted the successful completion of the project of literacy classes across five regions targeting Ukrainian and local Roma childrenAfter meetings with local authorities and school directors, he noted an intense demand for these services, with local leaders even requesting that activities continue through the summer to provide safe, structured environments for children who might otherwise be unsupervised. CCR played a vital role in identifying 120 children for the first round of the "Speranța" summer camp, noticing the diversity of the participants, which included not only Ukrainians but also refugees from Angola, Turkey, and Iraq. In total, CCR has supported the deployment of 270 children to various summer rest and recreation programs.<br><br>• **UNICEF updates:**<br><br>Corneliu Țăruș (UNICEF) provided details on the "Youth in Action" summer camps for 300 adolescents (including 70 refugees). The curriculum focused on "21st-century skills", including: digital literacy, (AI, media literacy, and STEAM), soft skills (leadership, civic engagement, and career orientation), well-being, mental health and gender equality.<br><br>The next meeting will take place in September, and the members will be informed about the date by email. | |