**Child Protection Sub-Working Group**

| Meeting Details | |
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| **Date** | 20 July 2022 |
| **Time** | 4pm-5pm |
| **Chair** | Eda Onde, UNHCR Child Protection Officer |
| **Reporting** | *N/A* |
| **Email** | ondeg@unhcr.org |
| **Agenda** | |
| 1. **"Back to school in exile: Challenges in bringing Ukrainian children and youth into education in the new school year"** – **presentation, UNHCR**<br>2. **Recap of IM mission/overview of Primero – UNICEF**<br>3. **Agency Updates/AOB [updates from your organizations on programming and/or concerns].** | |
| **Information collection and relevant links** | |
| Moldova operational data portal: https://data2.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784 | |

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

| Agenda | Discussion | Agreements/ Actions |
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| **Back to school in exile: Challenges in bringing Ukrainian children and youth into education in the new school year** | • Unprecedented number of refugee children in host countries. From over 5.8 million refugees recorded, an estimated 40 to 60% are children.<br>• A lot of the receiving countries have never received such large numbers of refugees in their education systems. The numbers now are much larger than the 2015-2016 wave of arrivals in Europe. Structural teacher shortages. Important shortages of language and preparatory class teachers. In urban areas, looming shortages of places to sit, teaching materials. | • UNHCR to share presentation, UNHCR Guidance on education options, and UNHCR Guidance |

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| Frederik Smets, Education Officer, UNHCR, smets@unhcr.org | • Other challenges are as follows:<br><br>    ○ MHPSS;<br>    ○ Legal gaps and barriers;<br>    ○ Online learning - children remain isolated at home and have limited opportunities to mix with peers or host community members; broadcast/live lessons may be interrupted or intermittent due to fighting, power disruptions etc.; quality of learning and engagement with tasks may be limited (as was the case with much home-based learning during COVID); older siblings/parents are required to be engaged in childcare; relies on access to connectivity and hardware;<br>    ○ Parents lack information about education options - parents do not receive info on compulsory education obligation, support systems in place in host countries (language learning, preparatory classes, MHPSS in schools, financial and other support available for education).<br><br>• According to the Rapid Needs Assessment carried out by IsraAid in Moldova, the parents' top priorities for their children's education is not to enrol their children in the Moldovan education system. Approximately 75% of parents stated that they are waiting to see what happens in order to decide upon preferable educational framework for their children.<br>• Another interesting outcome of the RNA is that the access to education varies discernibly with age and gender.<br>    ○ A concerning trend was noted for boys 15 and older: there is a drastic decline in the number of boys attending/continuing online education in this age group, flagging concerns for boys being forced to engage in child labour or to assume caregiver roles (financial or otherwise), for their families.<br>• UNHCR emphasizes and argues in favour of enrolment of refugees in national education systems (better quality education, better sustainability, better integration, futureproofing). | on digital education tools. |

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| | o Emphasis on quality of education provision and planning for every possible scenario. | |
| **Recap of IM mission/overview of Primero – UNICEF.**<br><br>Gheorghe Trofin, Child Protection Officer, UNICEF<br>gtrofin@unicef.org | • From 4-8 July 2022, experts from UNICEF and UNHCR HQ were in Moldova for a landscape scoping mission related to information management.<br>• Experts met with key partners, collected information, and discussed system requirements and interoperability of CPIMS+/PRIMERO with other systems, planned or already in place.<br>• UNICEF and UNHCR jointly prepared a presentation and proposal on implementing PRIMERO in Moldova for the management of information pertaining to refugee children in Moldova to respective ministries and Moldovan authorities.<br>• UNICEF and UNHCR are in process of sending a formal letter of offer to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. | **Action points:**<br><br>• N/A |
| **Agency Updates/AOB [updates from your organizations on programming and/or concerns]**<br><br>Olga Bitca, Protection Associate, bitca@unhcr.org | - Olga Bitca, UNHCR, Roma Taskforce, highlighted concerns pertaining to the education of Roma children.<br>  o Some challenges flagged were lack of documentation/ability to enrol and access national education system; language barriers; lack of prior certification of learning.<br>  o Bearing in mind the compounded protection risks (i.e., rising risk of early marriage for girls; child labour).<br>  o Request to tackle these challenges in a multi-functional and inter-sectoral approach, and request for child protection actors to work closely with education actors in proactively addressing these challenges. | **Action points:**<br><br>• N/A |