

**UN REFUGEE RESPONSE COORDINATION IN ROMANIA**  
**Education Sub-Working Group meeting**  
**27 July 2022, 10:00 – 11.30 am**

**Venue- Online (Zoom)**

**Agenda**

1. Review of last agenda
2. Tour de table
3. Q&A
4. World Bank project in UTCB shelter
5. Aob

Round of introduction ( UNICEF/ World Bank/ Plan International/ UNHCR/ IOM/ Terre des Hommes/ Save The Children/ CNRR/ World Vision)

1. Review of the last agenda

Updates of the methodologies developed by the MoE about the Romanian language classes- they will be published soon

Task force back to school- in progress

2. Tour de table

**World Vision** updated that they continue with implementing education programming within Bucharest, with supporting summer activities, preparation of school reopening( back to school type of materials), follow up with the government directive in terms of integration of children in Romanian schools, trainings.

- Having training of trainers in psychology aid.
- In the next few weeks additional summer activities will follow- target the unreached locations- they have done needs assessments (Valcea- Sally Ndemi to share)

**UNHCR** mentioned that they received some messages from schools that asked for support because they received some refugee children. They had a meeting with Ikea to start a kindergarden.

[Save the Children](#) updated about their summer activities in 8 schools in Buchares , Suceava, Iasi, Maramures, Braila and Constanta for 250 children in the moment.

Activities between romanian and ukrainian children, support them in digital learning and MHPSS.

[Terre des hommes](#) provided details about their activities for summer schools, animation, working mainly in Bucharest. Going to start a partnership with UNHCR in Constanta and Brasov, working in Ienachita Vacarescu school and in different centers- Henri Coanda, Dimitrie Golescu, DGASPC sector 4.

They distributed educational and recreational kits and some toys, two types, for 11 years old and for teenagers. Also they are very concerned about the enrollment in schools, the outlook is not very positive, in some parts county inspectorate don't give approval for schools activities because they are waiting for MoE, parents are worried that if their children will be auditors they will not be recognized.

[IOM](#) provided updates about romanian language courses for refugee children

[Plan International](#) highlighted that they are working in different places- Buchares , Constanta, Galati and Braila. They organized educational activities, provided summer camp activities and other recreational activities.

They are focused on education campaigns to target refugee community. It is a lack of clarity for the next academic year.

**Action:** to discuss the schools enrollment campaigns and back to school.

- There are 1379 kids enrolled in UA learning hubs, the enrollment for september will be reported after the enrollments

[NRC](#) continue activities in three youth centers- Bucharest and Tulcea, they are focused on adolescents- language, recreational activities, community engagement.

[CNRR](#) is continuing its counselling sessions in Bucharest, Radauti, Suceava, Galati, Braila and Constanta. People ask about education more than in June, however, they're still waiting to decide upon enrolling.

[UNICEF](#) updated that they are working with different partners mainly in Bucharest, they are supporting day care centers and schools like Uruguay , Mihai Viteazul, Ienachita Vacarescu. During the summer they will organize summer camps for about 300 children, some of them started already. UNICEF it is also working on a needs assessment – section on education, they will have the first round in August- [Luminita Costache](#) to share. Yesterday it was launched the PRIMERO- that collects data from the refugees, they are on the last phase with MoE too, to launch the platform for collecting the data in education.

### 3. Q&A

Q: Who has the responsibility for management & data analysis of Primero, how will be used in practice, how the data is going to be used in the best way possible?

A: We can ask for our colleague that was in charge to come in a meeting and to respond. This was developed in close partnership with National Authorities and with the Immigration Inspectorate. It is the role of the Romanian authorities to be sure that the data collecting is used

for better targeting the needs and to be included in the National Plan that was launched yesterday.

There is not enough awareness for all the country authorities- will come in the next stages.

Q: For the need assessment on education- is it across all the countries or selected countries? Regarding the data (Primer) - what is its purpose?

A: It's a sample of counties- it's not exhaustive.

The purpose is to collect more disaggregated data of children enrolled in the RO schools, we do not have any kind of disaggregation, we would like to collect through the school network data about children that are hosted in different schools (Mihai Viteazul, Ienachita Vacarescu), namely data about the needs of the childrens and schools, more specifically-at the individual level and to connect this data base with Primer (eg. how many children are out of school, those that are going online)

Q: Will you be able through Primer to follow up how many of the enrolled kids dropped out in course of the year?

A: Some of them already dropped out- we will be able when the data will be collected at the individual level.

Q: Regarding linkages to livelihoods and preschool activities/childcare (this is a key barrier to livelihoods for mothers with care responsibilities). Does it make sense to also cover this in the newly established livelihoods working group, or should we refer these discussions to the education working group?

A: Many mothers are unable to find anywhere to enroll their children, there is an increase need for children to go somewhere during the day. World Vision is supporting Day Care centres to address this.

It is important to know that local NGOs are also doing early childhood classes. UNICEF with Step by Step will establish parenting hubs- focusing on early childhood education and care. According to the Romanian legislation, the education for children is under jurisdiction of the Ministry of Education. Day care centers are run by the General Directorate for Social Assistance in each municipality.

**Action:** EDU SWG to start a list of schools that are supporting ECD classes.

Q: Are there organisations in touch with the Ukrainian Ministry of Education?

A: World Vision is involved in cluster meetings in Ukraine. The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (MESU) said they are liaising with host governments to avail online curriculum. With regard to integration, MESU mentioned that parents can make the choice based on what they want for their children. The issue with auditory learners makes it difficult for most parents so some of the parents they have talked to are saying they want their children to have face to face options for their Ukraine online curriculum to be made available in Romania, because the children need physical interaction with other learners. They raised the issue of accreditation and this is yet to be clarified as it affects both refugee children and teachers. The refugee parents indicated that their children can do online learning with curricula but that should be more interactive.

Save the Children had regular meetings with the counterparts in Ukraine so they get some information about the Ukraine MoE's approach but there is little formalised communication.

Maybe international organisations could put some pressure on authorities to proceed further with these issues.

#### 4. WB project in UTCB shelter

Working under EU-funded TSI with the Department for Emergency Situations on How to accelerate the access to support services and integration for UA refugees the World Bank experimented an approach at UTCB shelter, where children were struggling to study at distance.

The approach "Project based learning" mixes Romanian and Ukrainian teachers to provide children with the opportunity to reconnect with learning via the set up of a project directly related to their current lives and insertion challenges. Initial results demonstrate positive progress in catching up on the foundational skills, developing now basics of Romanian and working with computer (ppts, googleforms and other). On the set assignments, they learnt across subjects and applied the knowledge to solve a real-life issue in the community. They learnt to work as a team, started to communicate more, deliver presentations, have ideas themselves how to solve a task.

They running 30 day experiments with a tool. They take the plan that the government has and try to simulate if these programmes are implemented, how specifically these government programmes are operationalized and what else be needed. Teachers, some NGOs, Ukrainian mothers are involved and testing different ways of achieving the intended result.

They established a learning center, education services frontline: 9 % of children were enrolled in the Romanian schools, 1% in UA learning hubs and 90% - remote learning. The mothers are concerned that they don't know about the Romanian curricula, also the language barrier is a concern, namely how they will be able to help with the homework.

They wanted to see how to accelerate the integration through learning and how to increase in-person enrollment uptake?

They used project based learning-pedagogical practice where students learn through solving real world problems. (eg. Choose an assignment, research the problem, design a solution, test and share, reflect upon the learning)

The refugee children improved foundational skills (communication, collaboration, presentation skills). Less memorization, learning through practice- projects with Google Forms.

They will continue the implementation and testing. Their principal interest is RO schools with higher numbers of UA children (in Bucharest).

- Secondments of teachers from UA hubs for „PBL Fridays”
- Training of UA and RO teachers and continuous support
- Data base of PBL assignments on the learning platform, peer learning network (UA and RO)

#### Q&A for WB

Q: We can promote it and applying ourselves?

A: Yes, the participants can follow up.

5. Aob

No other business.

**Next meeting: 10 August 2022, 10:00-11:30 am, online (Zoom)**