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

Venue- Online (Zoom)

1- Review of workplan (attached) and agreement on monitoring / reporting
2- Tour de table & Q&A
3- Info sharing : Olga Kindergarten
4- Info sharing Junior achievment
5- Back to School preparation
6. Aob

1. Review of workplan and agreement on monitoring/reporting

Update on the sites on consolidated elements regarding 5ws- follow up

2. Tour de table

CNRR- offers legal assistance in Bucharest and Galati, Constanta, Suceava and mainly focus on that. They will have a community event next week focus on legal advice, Laura Tomescu to share the link

Save the Children- Focus on summer activities- 11 schools across the country, 3 in Bucharest, 3 in Suceava, 1 in Iasi, 1 in Baia Mare, possibly 1 in Sighet, Braila, Tulcea, Constanta and Brasov. They focus on recreational activities that bring together Romanians and Ukrainians and also on summer camps from next week- outdoor (mountains). Also, digital learning spaces in schools for Ukrainians.

Using MHPSS in schools (mixed groups- demonstrating effectiveness, designated to be integrated in other activities). They had training of trainers to Romania in late June, early July with a couple participants from other NGOs – e.g. Terre des Hommes

(Jessica Gregson to share any documentation)

Step by Step- Had summer programmes in Brasov, Bistrita and Tulcea. Discussing with UNICEF 15 primo hubs – support to increase their parenting skills

In July they had training of trainers- psychological support to teachers, 10 master teachers trained, started of begin of September to train 300 early childhood teachers

Support early childhood setting , with UNICEF they are also providing materials training and working with municipalities to understand their needs

Plan International- working with for education activities in Bucharest, Constanta, Galati and Braila, supporting children between 8-18 years, summer camp activities in Severin in September.

Extracurricular activities – trips, cultural places, completed the training of teachers- about 56, the registration of children – 800 children registered in our schools.

Distribution of educational materials, expanding ECD centers in different parts mainly in Suceava and in Bucharest.

NRC- Doesn't have any activities in Romania, working with local partners in search of educational partners in Romania

UNICEF- Educational draft flow is under debate. Another working group under governmental structure was created, the government intention is to restart the meetings in this educational group, because the plan is approved, when they will have updates they will let the participants know

Efforts done with governmental institutions to gather data- the primero platform was launched, there have been 3000 children registered into the platform, the goal is to gather general information about them.

Two weeks ago the minister of education created the quality inclusion group for refugees to gather more data about the children that are already enrolled in educational system, in Romania 300 children were registered on the platform, more registration starting with September. They support several schools- 3 schools. The first parenting hub open this month.

UNHCR emphasize that we need to make sure that we include as many children into Romanian schools, looking with worry at some of the enrollment figures not only in Romania but in another countries. Some hesitation of parents to enroll their children, a lot of children are remaining in online education.

Their language should be supported as well, together with UNICEF regional office and with the help of European Commission we have a guidance for inclusion in national school system.

At the Interagency coordination level- we will do the regional refugee response plan (around 35 pages) -a recalibration of a 2020 RRP plan- a revision of that document by the end of September. Winterization will be important too and we need to do a bit of a checking of where we are with the implementation, checking on the budgeting.

Regarding 5Ws will be important to have all the updated information because we will use that too for recalibration of the RRP.

Terre des Hommes- continued the activities in Bucharest, MHPSS activities in residential centers, they have regular weekly activities, they will start organizing more outreach activities, small activities for children for Ukrainian Independence Day. The event will be in Bucuresti, at the Garden of Casa Universitarilor and has a wide range of activities for children. Also starting activities in Brasov and Constanta.

We started to work on promoting participation in education via educational hubs, we have started working on a campaign to enroll children in physical involve not only in online classes, Radu Racareanu to share the link for the activities.

3. Info sharing: Olga kindergarten

- Creative Kids Academy- Bucharest, sector 1 : 10 classrooms, large indoor open area, large dining room, middle group room, baby room, big kids room: 5-7 years, basketball and football space, outdoor open space, kitchen, swimming pool, up to 250 children

- Circletime in Bragadiru- 2 buildings, 2 gardens, 6 classrooms, 2 indoor common areas, 2 sleeping areas, up to 90 children

They provide courses in Ukrainian language, catch-up courses for those who have missed time in kindergarten, provide access to families without full documentation, engage with families and facilitate their wider family needs (e.g., support with additional hours for helping mothers), partner with businesses who employ refugee parents, liaise with other NGOs and volunteers

The goal is that everyone can afford (the most vulnerable)– fees between 1000-2000 Ron, it depends on the short-long program. They cannot host children for free at the moment. They can take kids to the summer camps.

4. Info sharing Junior achievement

- They support with different activities that better face the challenges. They intend to prepare them both regarding the components for entrepreneurial education and that will be preparing for future jobs.
- Cooperate with UNICEF- combining different activities with resources that they have in the junior achievement programmes that were implemented in the schools
- The goal is to be sure that every child will develop and learn (adolescents too), they can mobilize universities too.

5. Back to school preparation

- Methodology on Romanian language classes and for the certification for the grades- all these methodologies will be implemented by the council inspectorates
- Discussion to support private schools with spaces to have the possibility to develop face to face activities
- Efforts of different partners to distribute devices for Ukrainian children so they can be able to learn on the curriculum
- We need to put together all the information from both ministers' countries regarding the recognition of children at school
- Guidelines developed at the regional level, but we are trying to do some focus groups to find out more from parents and children- next week to follow up
- Providing IT support for education, the traditional UNICEF support- via education kits
- To share about the Ukrainian conference - follow up
- 5000 places available for Ukrainian children in schools- very low number? We need to inform the parents that we need to work with government to expand these spaces
- The hesitance of Ukrainian parents to enroll- we need to bring to the parents that it is impossible to return in the school year, the conflict is still present, around 15% of education places are damaged or destroyed, a lot of areas are unsafe, it will be very difficult for a return
- Best choice will be to enroll their children in Romanian Schools

Q: What about Compulsory education?

A: Primary and secondary classes- these parents that are residents will need to comply to the Romanian laws.

Q: What support they are getting from schools?

A: We need to think how feasible is to implement something and how willing are parents, Romania has already big issues of integrate the children in rural areas, the problem of the system

is already big. We can eventually create a cluster group to establish some discussions on the opinions of the Ukrainian Minister of Education.

Q: The methodologies for accreditation and for language learning- they are still under development? How these appr will be integrated?

A: The methodologies were not published, they should be soon, the Minister will inform the county school inspectorates. The capacity of the refugee children was 5000 at the beginning of the crisis, this capacity hopefully has increasing. When discussing back to school we need to look also where the refugee children are. Compulsory education in Romania is 14 years.

6. AOB

No other businesses.

Next meeting: 24 August 2022, 10:00-11:30 am, online (Zoom)