UN REFUGEE RESPONSE COORDINATION IN ROMANIA

Education Sub-Working Group meeting

12 October 2022, 10:00 – 11.30 am

Venue- Online (Zoom)

1. Review of last agenda
2. Tour de table
3. Q&A
4. Aob

Tania Irimia from the Ministry updated that they monitor the way in which the measures provided in the Action Plan of 'Ordinance 100' are implemented. Special attention will be paid to the monitoring and reporting system. Discussions were held with UNICEF to identify the aspects that should be brought to the attention of school inspectorates and educational institutions for data collection. They are about to send this information to the inspectorates, after they identify the problems faced by the school colleagues in carrying out their activities.

They will collect data on the places where the courses are held and on studying the Romanian language, as well as the number of people who benefit from these courses. Thus, the Ministry of Education will approve the two methodologies aimed at making the Romanian language courses more flexible and recognizing studies for children and adults.

Q: What are the two methodologies and the target of these methodologies?

A: The normative framework allows the recognition of the studies carried out in Ukraine so that children can switch from being an audience to being registered.

Ann Sushko , the education coordinator in Urugay school, highlights that they have classes from 9:00 am-5 pm, mixed classes, some of them online, some of them in class. Now, common classes with Romanian kids and Ukrainian kids (they learn Romanian, Ukrainian, English).

Ostrovok educational hubs highlights that the schools face a huge drop off rate, the audience choosing online education because of the language barrier. Ostrovok asks for Romanian language classes for children. There are not enough teachers, and this will not be possible from the help of the Ministry of Education.

- A possible partnership with the British Council teaching in a third language, a new approach- English (UNICEF)

World bank to follow up regarding the language lessons. They are in touch with IOM, they have hundred places for children, in person and online. They were helping the Education Ministry at Romexpo, help them fill out the application and sent it to inspectorate.

The parents are very upset that they submitted the applications at the beginning of august and they did not receive any answer. They are claiming that temporary protection rights are not satisfactory. Also, the dropout rate has been 50% of the children, this information has spread into the Ukrainian community, the consequence being the bad reputation for the Romanian schools. WB will analyze how to have the Ukrainian teaching assistants help in the classroom and how to plan such lessons. Also, how to engage better the children, both Ukrainians and Romanians.

- To have a needs assessment for inclusive participation (down syndrome, those who don't have financing)
- To do trainings for teachers
- Some hubs of psychological help

Plan - JRS is planning disability needs assessment for schools.

The education team UNICEF got involved a lot with other partners like Regina Maria, Anaid, Romanian Angel Appeal. They support Romanian classes for Ukrainian students. Coming next: Signing partnerships with NGOs in Constanta, Galati, Brasov, Iasi, and Cluj.

Step by step - working with UNICEF to open accommodation centers.

The focal point in the Ministry of Education it is not necessarily a department, but rather Mr. Secretary of State Florin Lixandru, he is the point of contact for the integration of Ukrainian children. From his office, the requests reach the specialized departments depending on the type of request. Regarding the implementation of the Romanian language courses, the ministry sent a request to the school inspectorates through which it mentioned the need to organize Romanian language courses, they will receive a situation of the distribution of these courses and depending on the data they will see where they intervene. The following can be requested from the inspectorates: what type of help is needed for the child, including psycho-pedagogical assistance and counseling plus accommodation, transport, meals, and the inspectorates send these requests to the schools.

Q: Is the Ministry providing support to the Romanian teachers that have Ukrainian kids in the classrooms?

A: At this moment, there is no training program.

British council in collaboration with UNICEF will train 40 Romanian and Ukrainian teachers with focus on trauma. World Vision also ensuring that.

IOM has mediators in two schools, they were hired for 70 days.

Slovakian model- to pay Ukrainian teacher assistants part time for schools.

We have 2 goals:

- Guarantee the right to education
- To be sure we do it in coordination with the Ministry

Next meeting: 26 October 2022, 10:00-11:30 am, online (Zoom)