UN REFUGEE RESPONSE COORDINATION IN ROMANIA

Education Sub-Working Group meeting

8 February 2023, 9:00 – 10.30 am

Venue- Online (Zoom)

1. Introduction and welcoming of new Education SWG members (UNICEF)
2. Updates from the ISU working group on Education (JRS)
3. Any update from SWG members (including on situation, needs, progress & upcoming events) (All)
4. Review of progress on 5Ws/service mapping exercise + discussion on SWG priorities/joint programming (UNICEF)
5. AOB

Participants: WV, JRS, TdH, NRC, SCI, Plan International, CNRR, IOM, UNICEF, UNHCR

2. Updates from the ISU working group on Education (JRS)

They had a meeting organized with several school inspectorates from Suceava, Maramures, Iasi and Galati. The focus was eon Romanian language courses organized by the school inspectorates. The next meeting will be with the Constanta, Bucharest, Brasov, Cluj, and Timisoara.

We have few Romanian courses or none or children that didn't want to attend (especially in Maramures, Iasi). In Suceava, we don't have such language courses organized (they had 3 preschoolers willing to attend). Galati reported an increased number of children learning Romanian, 64 kids attend classes in Aurel Vlaicu school, in Ukrainian system and, they may choose to attend Romanian classes as well.

The main issue is not the resource but the demand, there is no real requirement from children and parents to attend. There is no recognition of studies. We also have language courses organized by the employment agencies at the local level (For unemployed Ukrainians and for a fee for those who are employed). For Romanian language classes, we should have specific requires submitted to the school inspectorates.

Q: We have some reasons from not enrolling?

A: We got the information from school inspectorates; they attend the Ukrainian classes online and their parents want to go back as soon as possible to Ukraine.

3. Any update from SWG members (including on situation, needs, progress & upcoming events)

JRS updated that they will organize a meeting on how to send correct messages to the Ukrainian community.

- Today, a meeting with UNICEF in Brasov to submit more than 400 applications for organizing classes in Ukrainian language and to advocate to the ministry.
- In Galati they got access to School 16, and they will organize activities for children (Romanian and English classes)
- In Constanta - increase of demand, they expect to get more spaces including in Navodari, discussions with Eforie.
- In Medias they have 30 children that are orphans- focus on these category of children
- Iasi- to convince them that they should have a campaign of enrollment and to get access in schools
- They started a project with Plan, namely, focusing on provision on Romanian language courses- Ukrainian teachers speaking Romanian or Romanian teachers speaking Russian/Ukrainian. (Constanta, Brasov, and Galati)
- They supported the first meeting organized by the Association of Ukrainian teachers in Romania and they tried to assess the needs to see how the community of teachers can be organized (230 teachers in Romania).
- Between 20-24 of February, they will have a meeting organized for teachers regarding training activities.
- Working on the campaign of enrollment.

- https://gov.ro/ro/guvernul/sedinte-guvern/informatie-de-presa-privind-actele-normative-aprobate-in-cadrul-edintei-guvernului-romaniei-din-11-ianuarie-2023 https://sgg.gov.ro/1/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/MEMO.pdf - Memorandum on the subject: Approval of the signing of the Agreement between the Government of Romania and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine regarding the mutual recognition of study documents.

AOB

- To discuss next time with partners about needs and any lessons learned from laptop distribution to teachers and children and related risks.

- Caritas to be present in the SWG (from what we know, they provide assistance for St. Joseph College, teaching Romanian in shifts, they also provide assistance in Satu Mare.
- To have a strategic meeting to discuss our direction
- Working session on the workplan to identify the assessments of the year

Next meeting: 22 February 2023, 9:00-10:30 am, online (Zoom)