



Inter-Agency Refugee Education Working Group (IREWG)

IREWG Monthly Meeting – 27 July 2023

Meeting Details: Education Working Group Monthly Meeting	
Date	27 July 2023
Time	13:00-14:30
Chair	Adriana Cazacu (MER)
Co-Chair	Loujine Khoury (UNICEF) Katherine Lampe and Fadia Jbara (UNHCR)
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Agenda	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. MER updates regarding enrollment of Ukrainian children in formal education and preparation for the new school year 2023/20242. Back to School Campaign (UNICEF)3. Education Assessment Progress (REACH)4. MHPSS interventions in Education (WHO)5. Partners presentation (Amici del Bambini, WeWorld)6. Any other Business (AoB)	
Information collection and relevant links	
Activity Info Platform: https://www.activityinfo.org/	
Participants	



- Katherine Lampe - UNHCR	- Olga Morozon - Pestalozzi Children's Foundation Moldova	- Lucy Strickland - Plan International
- Fadia Jbara - UNHCR	- Joanna Filipoulos- REACH	- Saida Bakhsh - Plan International
- Loujine Khoury - UNICEF	- Lamis Al Hasan - Norwegian Refugee Council	- Denis Railean- Peace Winds
- Cristina Stratulat - UNICEF	- Valentina Ghenciu - AO Lumos	- Ayaka Ishikawa - Peace Winds
- Andrei Esanu - Federatia Familiilor pentru Unificare si Pace in Lume din Moldova	- Sevan Petrosyan- World Vision	- Diana Alexei - Chisinau Municipality
- Tatiana Pusca - CRS	- Maura Reap- WHO	- Viorica Culeac - UN Women
- Eloi Rouillon - WeWorld	- Margaux Capblanq- Libraries Without Borders	- Tatiana Zaloz - Terre des hommes Moldova
- Viviana Cobzaru - WeWorld	- Martha Glover-Short – CRS	- Lucia Casap -World Bank Group
- Stela Vasluian - Amici dei Bambini	- Cristina Ceclu – People in Need	
- Tatiana Lungu - Amici dei Bambini		

Summary of discussions and agreements/action points

Agenda	Discussion	Actions Points
1. MER updates	<p>The MER noted that given the summer break, there were no updates on the number of enrolled Ukrainian children in Moldovan schools and preschools. MER will provide the updates on the enrolment of Ukrainian children in the upcoming Working Group meeting for the new school year 2023/2024.</p> <p>The MER mentioned that in collaboration with Ministry of Education (MoE) in Ukraine, they facilitated the organization of final exams for around 213 Ukrainian students who are studying online and living in the Republic of Moldova. MER facilitated the examination process by providing examination halls to take the exams in designated institutions.</p> <p>Regarding Temporary Protection (TP) regulations, for the new school year, the MER supports the government's decision on the request for refugees to regularize their legal status in the Republic of Moldova. MER stated that for the coming school year, in general, parents will need to present a proof of the TP status among other requested documents to facilitate the enrollment of their children in a Moldovan school. Also, new arrivals will be able to enroll their children in Moldovan schools without</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Official guidance from MER regarding enrollment procedures and Temporary Protection will be issued soon. - MER will inform municipalities and schools about the enrollment procedures of Ukrainian children in light of the TP regulations.



	<p>having the TP but will then need to present the TP document within 90 days from the date of their arrival to Moldova</p> <p>MER noted that cases of children without TP will be considered on a case-by-case basis. MER stated that they recognize fully all children's right to education and discussed this with the Minister of Education and will act based on the situation and analyse each request without limiting the right to education.</p> <p>MER stressed that all children will need to be enrolled by a legal guardian. The law on the protection of children specifies what are the preconditions for guardians to be officially recognized by the state. The guardianship authorities and MLSP can be contacted to assist with issuing necessary documentation whenever needed.</p> <p>MER reported that a Government Order on the enrolment of Ukrainian children in Moldovan schools will be forthcoming. After this, informational sessions will be organized by MER for municipalities and school facilities about the conditions of enrolment of Ukrainian children for the next school year.</p>	
2. Back to School Campaign (UNICEF)	<p>UNICEF presented updates regarding the Back-to-School Campaign being launched in close coordination with MER. The objectives of this campaign are to encourage Ukrainian caregivers to enrol their children in schools. (Please see attached presentation for more details)</p> <p>For information sharing, 5000 posters and 10,000 leaflets were printed and distributed at the border crossing points, UNCHR cash assistance and community centers, Blue Dots, at the bureau of General Inspection of Migration where Ukrainians are applying for TP.</p> <p>In addition, an information session for the Greenline staff with MER participation was conducted to capacitate the staff with all information needed regarding the enrollment process of Ukrainian children in Moldovan schools. A Q&A document for the Greenline staff with all the questions regarding the enrollment procedure for Ukrainian children in Moldovan schools was drafted. The Q&A document will be validated with MER and shared with Greenline staff and also with Education Working Group partners.</p> <p>On July 10, an online information campaign was launched, using social media such as Viber, WhatsApp, Telegram and Facebook. In this sense, 3 visuals were developed with messages and a link to the MER web page.</p> <p>To reach more refugees with the messages, currently 3000 posters (A2) are being distributed to the supermarkets, pharmacies and petrol stations at the national level, such us: Kaufland, Metro, Nr.1, Linella, Fourchette, Petrom, Rompetrol, Avante, Vento, Farmacia Familia.</p>	<p>- MER to share back the Q&A document to circulate it with the Greenline staff and with the WG partners regarding the enrollment procedure and TP.</p>



	In August, to intensify information sharing activities, focus group discussions with refugees in the communities will take place.	
3. Education Assessment Progress (REACH)	REACH representative gave updates regarding Education Assessment. The data was collected in collaboration with partner organizations using interviewing methods to collect information from teachers and students in Moldova. The assessment is currently at the validation stage. The preliminary findings will be shared with the group by the mid/end of August. Report will follow by end of September.	- REACH will share the main findings of the assessment when finalized.
4. MHPSS interventions (WHO)	<p>WHO colleague, Maura Reap, chairing the MHPSS WG, provided a presentation highlighting the importance of MHPSS interventions in education (please check the presentation for more information)</p> <p>MHPSS WG co-chairs also presented the MHPSS WG and objectives which are mainly to provide a technical platform for better coordination of the inter-agency emergency response with regards to MHPSS; to assure safe and ethical service provision.</p> <p>Questions posed during the meeting were about MHPSS activities and how they can help in strengthening anti-bullying behaviour and promoting greater acceptance and integration of refugee children. WHO colleague explained that MHPSS activities significantly improve the inclusion and social cohesion through children's sports activities, peer support groups and training of teachers on how to deal with bullying. Other activities to foster social cohesion focus on the involvement of children from host communities with refugee children, raising emotional awareness in education as well as training teachers on self-care.</p>	
5. Partners Presentstion	<p>Amici del Bambini and WeWorld gave presentations on the main education activities they are currently conducting in Moldova.</p> <p>Amici del Bambini (please see attached presentation for more details):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduced its project implemented by Education Cannot Wait First Emergency Fund (ECW FER) in partnership with Plan International and UNICEF. - This project aims to reach 12,000 beneficiaries in Moldova, including 1,900 refugee children and 125 adults through non-formal education and extracurricular activities that enhance social cohesion in addition to psychosocial and mental health support services for students, teachers and caregivers. <p>WeWorld (please see attached presentation for more information):</p>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Italian NGO, present in Moldova since 2022 - Currently has around 24 000 beneficiaries - Participating in both Moldova and Ukraine’s Humanitarian Response, taking part in cross-border activities - Focus on Education, Protection, Livelihoods and Inclusion, distribution of NFIs and food items - Operating two Mobile Teams one on MHPSS and second on EiE – covering both Moldova and Ukraine - Facilitating language classes for Romanian and English language in Criuleni and Chisinau - Operating Ludobus in collaboration with Katalyst Kitchen in Criuleni - Summer camp in cooperation with MER for estimated 400 children, both host community and refugee children - Initiating EiE activities for the Roma community <p>Lumos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In collaboration with UNICEF is launching an assessment to map and identify the needs of refugee children with disabilities. 	
<p>AoB</p>	<p>The Strategic Advisory Group (SAG)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Co-chair informed the partners about the results of the nominations for the SAG members. - The representative for the NNGOs is Andrei Esanu from the Federatia Familiilor pentru Unificare si Pace in Lume din Moldova. - For the INGOs representation, Mihai Cotorbai from the People in Need was nominated by most of the votes. - Follow up meeting will take place to establish TOR. <p>Digital Labs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Excel Sheet for mapping tech labs in schools will be reshared in order to ensure capturing the most updated information. <p>Romanian Language Classes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A tool for mapping language classes provided by partners in community centers will be shared with partners. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SAG meeting to be set up soon to discuss the ToR. - The mapping tool for the tech labs to be reshared to ensure all partners’ data is included. - A mapping tool for language classes/ courses provided by the partners



	<p>Summer Camps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Updated sheet for the summer camps is available and will be shared with the partners. The information about upcoming summer camps for refugee children is updated in Romanian, English, Ukrainian and Russian language.- Partners to share any information regarding upcoming new summer camps to update the sheets. <p>Schools Rehabilitation and Winterization</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The EWG continues to receive requests for schools in need of rehabilitation and winterization and that are enrolling refugees. UNICEF can contribute to WASH rehabilitation and is already intervening for two requests received from two schools in Anenii Noi and Orhei.- Partners who have the funds for schools' and preschools rehabilitation and winterization to inform the coordination team of the WG. <p>Roma Task Force</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Roma Task Force would like to collaborate with the EWG to further discuss how to work together on the education of Roma children.	
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