



Regional Refugee Response  
for the Ukraine Situation

## SECTOR: Child Protection Sub-Working Group (CP SWG)

Meeting Details	
Date	11 October 2023
Time	15:00-16:30
Chair	UNICEF
Reporting	UNHCR
Email	<a href="mailto:lampe@unhcr.org">lampe@unhcr.org</a> , <a href="mailto:frossi@unicef.org">frossi@unicef.org</a>
Agenda	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Introduction and Attendance</li><li>2. Update from the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection</li><li>3. Update Blue Dot and other partners.</li><li>4. Presentation of the findings of the Education assessment (REACH)</li><li>5. Presentation of the preliminary findings of the MSNA</li><li>6. RRP 2024</li><li>7. Presentation of the virtual safe space (UNICEF)</li><li>8. AOB</li></ol>	
Information collection and relevant links	
Please use the below link to fill out information Link to operational data portal: <a href="https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784">https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784</a>	
Participants	



1- Flore/UNICEF (Co-chair) 2- Katie/UHCR (Co-chair) 3- Ina Scaticailov/MLSP 4- Carolina/UNHCR 5- Tatiana/CRS 6- Martha/ CRS 7- Natalia/ CCF Moldova 8- Tatiana/ Terre des Hommes 9- Cristina/ Terre des Hommes 10- Iulia/CNPAC 11- Sevan/ World Vision 12- Corina/REACH 13- Myriem/ICRC	14- Corina/REACH 15- Martin/ Jugend Eine Welt 16- Hanna/ACTED 17- Loredana/IOM 18- Veronica/ CDA 19- Valeria/ DRC 20- Fede/ We World 21- Valentina/LUMOS 22- Domnica/LUMOS 23- Natalia/ UNFPA 24- Casey/CWS 25- Virgiliu/P4EC 26- Joana/REACH	27- Dmitrii/IsraAID 28- Mariana/AVE Copiii	
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### Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
<b>Introductions &amp; CP SWG Agenda</b>	The co-chair and newly arrived participants were introduced. The meeting's agenda was presented for approval. Participants were also requested to mark their attendance and the new participants introduced themselves.	
<b>Updates from the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection</b>	<b>The MLSP</b> is collecting data from the local and territorial guardianship authorities regarding unaccompanied children and children accompanied by unauthorized caregivers.  From 28 December 2022-7 October 2023, 177 unaccompanied and 531 separated children entered Moldova (though many may have since departed). In the same period, 359 exit authorizations were issued by the Guardianship Authority. For more details, please see the information note shared by MLSP.	The co-chairs to share the informative note by email.
<b>Update from Blue Dots</b>	<b>Partnership for Every Child (P4EC)</b> reported that the figures of the children accessing services in the four Blue Dots managed by P4EC are decreasing. In September, the Blue Dot assisted 2 unaccompanied children, compared to 15 in August, and 31 separated children, compared to 69 children in August. A total of 86 children and 67	



	<p>adults were assisted at the Blue Dots. The mobile teams delivered 9 meetings for more than 100 children and two unaccompanied children were placed in assisted living in Chisinau.</p> <p><b>Blue Dot Otaci</b>, also noted the decrease in the number of beneficiaries. The Blue Dot in Otaci assisted 275 people in September, compared to 331 people in the August.</p> <p>No UASC were assisted in the Blue Dot in September, but 4 separated children were assisted at the border crossing by the child protection specialists. It was noted that the Blue Dot has observed cases in which UASC do not enter Moldova, after a discussion with the Border Police. In these cases, the Border Police have not contacted the Guardianship Authority to intervene. UNICEF and UNHCR noted that they are aware of these cases and are following up with the central Border Police.</p> <p><b>UNICEF co-chair</b> asked if a similar problem is being faced at the Palanca border. P4EC stated that this has not been observed in Palanca.</p> <p>The Otaci Blue Dot mentioned that they have recently assisted 11 single men who entered the country irregularly. They requested guidance on the correct referral procedure for these men, as it is currently unclear. The UNHCR co-chair stated that she would pass this concern along to the Protection WG for follow up.</p> <p>Lastly, it was noted that Ukrainians approaching the Blue Dot are asking about services and accommodation for winter, revealing that people are worried.</p>	<p>The co-chairs will follow up with the Border Police.</p> <p>The UNHCR co-chair to share these updates about the new trends in the Blue Dot with the PWG.</p>
<p><b>Presentation of the findings of the Education assessment (REACH)</b></p>	<p><b>REACH</b> presented the main findings of the assessment conducted to understand the access to and the conditions for Ukrainian online education and to explore the experiences of the refugee children enrolled in Moldovan schools.</p> <p><i>Please find the details in the attached presentation.</i></p> <p><b>UNHCR co-chair</b> added that the study was conducted during summer 2023 and that many challenges related to enrolment were addressed by the Ministry of Education's new Instruction, which was issued on 4 September 2023. It was added that and the CP SWG can support the work of the Education WG by helping address the barriers for in-person enrolment, as many years of the online studying has a negative impact in the long term, and should also focus on school community cohesion, training for teachers, and MHPSS in schools.</p>	<p>Presentation will be shared with CP SWG members.</p>



	<p><b>CWS</b> expressed the interest in deeper understanding on the educational training for teachers in handling discrimination, especially given the barriers faced by the Roma families.</p>	
<p><b>Presentation of the preliminary findings of the MSNA</b></p>	<p><b>REACH</b> presented the preliminary findings of the MSNA, mentioning that the qualitative component of the MSNA focused on adolescent mental health and wellbeing, with the main objective to get a comprehensive understanding of the psychological wellbeing and the needs of the refugee adolescents. The cultural views and perceptions, key risks, and protective factors, coping mechanisms, primary needs and the accessibility of the services were accounted as specific objectives during the MSNA.</p> <p>REACH asked for the support of the CP SWG members in identifying FGD participants and safe spaces to conduct the data collection.</p> <p><b>UNICEF co-chair</b> proposed to reach out to the MHPSS Technical Reference Group and Health WG to offer support and their expertise and noted that UNICEF Youth Clubs can support with providing the space.</p> <p><b>REACH</b> noted they would like to also target adolescents not included in the MHPSS services currently.</p> <p><b>UNICEF co-chair</b> followed presented the preliminary findings of the MSNA Protection Sector findings and noted that there is a general awareness of protection services by refugees, particularly of legal services. A total of 97% of respondents stated they would report a case of violence, exploitation, or neglect of children directly to the police, 1% to the helpline, 38% to the government services and 25% to NGOs.</p> <p>The co-chair stressed the need to work on the awareness of parents that they could also contact child protection NGOs and other social service providers for support with these kinds of cases.</p> <p>Of the total, 7% of the household surveyed were caring for a child who is not their biological child, indicating a high number of separated children.</p> <p>The co-chair outlined the GBV part of the assessment, as 55% of the respondents indicated that the main reasons for not seeking support is the fear of retaliation, shame (49%), lack of awareness of the services (17%), and lack of trust in the service providers (12%).</p>	



	<p><b>UNHCR co-chair noted the need for</b> awareness raising towards contacting the Guardianship Authority, as the police presence could be more intimidating than helpful in some situations.</p> <p><b>UNICEF co-chair</b> agreed that police should be contacted in the extreme cases, however, noted also the need to focus on early identification of the risks. On this, the multiplication of the entry points of early identification can facilitate that.</p> <p><i>See more details in the presentation attached.</i></p>	
<p><b>RRP 2024</b></p>	<p><b>UNHCR co-chair</b> provided an overview of the RRP, which is a fundraising tool for the Ukrainian response, including the whole region. The Child Protection sector defined the 2024 objectives, the activities and the indicators and the deadline is set for 15 October for organizations to submit their proposed 2024 activities.</p> <p>The matrix with the 4 objectives of the Child Protection sector was presented. The co-chair thanked everyone who participated in the RRP workshop for their feedback, and explained that the number of activities had to remain limited in order to facilitate reporting, but that comments received had been incorporated into certain activities.</p> <p><i>Please consult the matrix emailed for more information.</i></p> <p><b>IOM</b> asked for a clarification regarding the activities submitted in the RRP and the planned activities. The co-chair confirmed that both funded and the planned activities can be included in the RRP.</p> <p>After the submission of partners of the activities, each sector will receive the proposed activities. The co-chairs will check the activities to ensure the target is realistic and that there is no duplication. The members were informed that the co-chairs will reach out bilaterally if further clarifications are needed.</p>	
<p><b>Presentation of the virtual safe space</b></p>	<p><b>UNICEF co-chair</b> presented <i>Laaha</i>, a virtual safe space application for women and girls to be launched by UNICEF. The application enables adolescent girls and women to seek support and is aimed to reduce the stigma, the barriers, and the fear of isolation. The platform was contextualized to the Ukraine situation and translation in Romanian and Russian will be done soon.</p> <p>The platform provides information not only about GBV, but also social support, mental health, the body, relationships, etc. The aim is for the platform to be contextualized in every country, by outreaching to women</p>	<p>Members will be informed when the platform will be operational.</p>



	and girls. A survey to consult the utility of such platforms was done and more than 68% of adolescents confirmed the need of having such platform.	
<b>AOB</b>	The next CP SWG will take place on November 29 <sup>th</sup> , in person only.	