



<b>Date</b>	11 July 2023	<b>Location</b>	Hybrid – in person at UNHCR premises and online on Teams
<b>Chair &amp; Co chair</b>	UNHCR	<b>Note taking / minutes</b>	UNHCR (Silvia Desheva)
<b>Participating organizations and members</b>	<b>UNHCR</b> (Hayoung Kim, Silvia Desheva, Petya Karayaneva, Hannah Waisman); <b>IOM</b> (Mariya Samuilova); <b>UNICEF</b> (Carole Vignaud, Mariya Yankova); <b>WHO</b> (Jenny Melgaard, Nela Vamporova-Pethers); <b>BCRM</b> (Vladimir Milev); <b>BRC</b> (Sofia Stoimenova, Alexandra Vasileva), <b>Caritas</b> (Konstantin Ivanov); <b>CRW</b> (Nina Charles); <b>ENERGY</b> (Galya Georgieva); <b>FAR</b> (Nadya Denkova); <b>Reachout Foundation</b> (Kristina Gologanova); <b>Situation Centre Open Doors</b> (Ioana Bestiuc); <b>SDA</b> (Snezhina Gabova); <b>USRF</b> (Olena Burdina).		
<b>Agenda</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2023 Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment</li> <li>• 2023 Refugee Response Plan (RRP) mid-year and 2024 RRP</li> <li>• Key updates from partners</li> <li>• AOB</li> </ul>		
<b>Agenda Point</b>	<b>Summary</b>	<b>Agreed Decisions / Follow-Up Actions</b>	
<b>2023 Multi-Sectoral Needs Assessment (MSNA)</b>	<p>2023 MSNA (presentation and concept note separately attached)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>2023 MSNA – objective:</b> to look at the vulnerabilities, needs of refugee population currently in Bulgaria, key priority areas, able to know key gaps and needs to inform the Government's program and 2024 Refugee Response Plan (RRP).</li> <li>• <b>Government engagement ongoing:</b> Council of Ministries informed, discussions with the State Agency for Refugees (SAR) on data, and the National Statistical Institute for sampling methodology</li> <li>• Working with social agency Global Metrics – discussions on timelines, aligned with the regional timelines</li> <li>• <b>Sector leads and Multi-Functional Team</b> (UNHCR Inter Agency sectoral level) – reviewed the questionnaire to contextualize for Bulgaria which will inform country-level analysis. Sector leads will support on key sector review of preliminary analysis and draft report chapters, in coordination with respective WGs.</li> <li>• <b>Implementation:</b> target 1, 000 households / 2 enumerators to make the surveys</li> </ul>	<p><b>18<sup>th</sup> July (Sofia) / 20<sup>th</sup> July (Burgas)</b> – training for enumerators</p> <p><b>End of July&amp;August</b> – data collection</p> <p><b>End of Aug</b> – preliminary analysis</p> <p>By <b>15<sup>th</sup> Sept</b> – first draft of the analysis</p> <p>By <b>31<sup>st</sup> Oct</b> – final report</p> <p><b>Inter-Agency team and Sector Leads</b> will continue</p>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recruitment notice for the enumerators was disseminated through various channels, including Inter-Agency mailing list.</li> <li><b>Trainings</b> for enumerators: Sofia (18 July)/Burgas (20 July)</li> <li><b>Data collection:</b> 21 July – 18 August 2023 – including in centers of organizations providing services to refugees.</li> </ul>	<p>to keep RRP/inter-agency partners updated on the progress.</p>
<p><b>2023 Refugee Response Plan (RRP) mid-year and 2024 RRP</b></p>	<p>The results from 2023 MSNA will feed into drafting the RRP for 2024. The 2024 RRP will depend on and align to the extension of the Temporary Protection Directive which is expected to be extended to the end of 2024 (possibly Q1 of 2025).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organisations interested in being a part of RRP 2024 will be asked to submit project proposals (aligning with the gaps from the 2023 MSNA findings) – similar process like last year.</li> <li>The 2023 mid-year report is being prepared on regional level to note what are the key progress achievements, challenges, etc, status quo against the targets and regional indicators. For Bulgaria – the inputs are based on RRP organisations` inputs in Activity Info. <i>The final report will be shared.</i></li> </ul>	<p><b>Inter-Agency team</b> will inform and separately share on the 2024 RRP planning parameters and processes.</p>
<p><b>Key updates from partners</b></p>	<p><b>UNICEF/Education Working Group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Priorities include school enrolment campaign and back to school activities – there is increased demand for face-to-face (F2F) learning and education, and this reflected in increased applications for education (Sofia, Varna).</li> <li>Enrolment for first grade is over, critical are 1<sup>st</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade – new education stages. School capacity for accommodating children, transportation issues, and other various challenges are being discussed with various municipalities.</li> <li>Currently momentum with the new team of Ministry of Education (MoE), more open for supporting some ideas for multiple pathways for learning. MoE agreed to move Bulgarian classes to beginning of September so that students have some time to get used to Bulgarian classes.</li> </ul> <p><b>WHO/Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Technical Working Group (TWG)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Next MHPSS TWG meeting is scheduled for 20 July, 10AM. The action plan of the TWG will be reviewed.</li> </ul>	



	<p><b>PSEA network:</b> Q3 work plan priorities were discussed in the last meeting, the next meeting date in July/August is TBC.</p> <p><b>Cash Working Group:</b> next meeting is scheduled for 13 July, 14PM.</p> <p><b>Bulgarian Red Cross (BRC)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Supporting Ukrainians from resources from the national campaign at the 12 humanitarian service points; continuing providing breakfast, drinks, psycho-social support; at the moment distributing hygiene and good parcels, planning to purchase and distribute more packages. Regarding Kakhovka dam response (with MatiUkraine), BRC provided beds, blankets, and assistance (for Ukrainians/and other TCNs).</li><li>• Humanitarian assistance points provide support not only to Ukrainians, but also to other TCNs</li><li>• MHPSS – a lot of training and consultations (F2F consultations and through national contact center) ongoing</li><li>• Work together in good cooperation with Blue Dots (Dobrich, Ruse, Varna, Sofia)</li><li>• Planning trainings for community engagement and accountability as well as online surveys on satisfaction</li><li>• Good practice - celebrated World Refugee Day with community engagement events (esp. in Sofia). Sports events (Ukrainians and TCNs) football tournament – children from Ovcha Kupel and Voenna rampa and Ukrainian team played together.</li><li>• Reconfirm UNICEF`s observations - high demand of school enrolment, a lot of people want their children`s diplomas, medical papers translated. There is high interest in enrolling in F2F classes in Bulgarian, switching from Ukrainian online school system.</li></ul> <p><b>Sofia Development Association (SDA)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Currently working on data survey covering only Sofia municipality concerning data collection with refugees and migrants, within the municipality and public institutions. There will be two Focus Group discussions till the end of July; and first week of August also carrying out interviews with experts. Desk research will continue until end-August.</li></ul>	<p><b>SDA</b> will share final report on the survey when finalized by mid Sep (data collection survey ongoing).</p>
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- Possible data exchange from other ongoing surveys (incl. MSNA).
- By mid Sep report should be finalised; end of Sep, planning meeting with the municipality to share the results before the elections.
- SDA plans to send a short survey to CSOs, for kind support/collaboration if you receive an email.
- In June, SDA organised a hackathon with children from four schools in Bulgaria (in collaboration with other CSOs – FAR, BRC). Materials from the event are to be published probably beginning of Sept (videos/photos/brochures/interviews kids created). For more visual materials visit SDAs [website](#)
- SDA (with UNHCR and BRC) coordinate Bureau for TCNs – all organisations are encouraged to publish and disseminate through this platform. You can send your materials/info/events to the team.

#### WHO

- Staffing transition for WHO - country rep has moved to the Ministry of Health (MoH).
- WHO has hired a MoH focal point/consultant on migration, who is working on drafting a plan on how different stakeholders are working on migration and collaborating, so she may be reaching out to different CSOs. After this plan is drafted, the consultant will then develop a paragraph on inclusion of migrants that will hopefully be included in National Health Strategy 2023.
- The final inter-agency Health assessment report is now translated in Bulgarian and will be available end of July.

#### UNHCR

- Roundtable on child protection was conducted in June - jointly with UNICEF – which gathered experts, practitioners. Focus on the pressing issue of supporting unaccompanied refugee children – shared good practices, valuable insights from municipalities. Since last year SAR is sending unaccompanied children to some of the social service providers and some of the crisis centre in Ruse, Momchilgrad, Kardjali. They shared their experience in dealing unaccompanied children.
- E.g. Language issues: looking for possibilities to provide services to children with translation devices – communication is one of the biggest issues: in Ruse they are using translation devices provided by UNICEF, Momchilgrad and Kardjali are using local population to interpret, some use Google Translate



	<p>to organise capacity building event for social workers – on religion, cultural differences, many social workers are not aware of the countries of origin specificities, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recommendations agreed upon included: to organise high level child protections round table in September; to make compilation of good practice and share it with service providers.</li><li>• On 27 June, UNHCR organised an event focused on consultations for the Global Refugee Forum (GRF) (government, municipalities, academia, CSOs, international organisations, refugee communities) - and presented Road map to GRF. Bulgaria has previously made six pledges, mostly on statelessness. In December, the Global Refugee Forum will be held.</li></ul>	
<b>AOB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Next regional meeting in Ruse will be scheduled for August (date TBC in coordination with the municipality)</li><li>• Next national Inter-Agency meeting – mid/end August (date and time TBC) – focusing on funding opportunities for CSOs</li></ul>	
<b>Next Meetings</b>	<p><b>Education Working Group meeting</b> <b>Date:</b> 26 July 2023 <b>Location:</b> Online <b>Time:</b> 09.30AM <b>Contacts/Chair:</b> UNICEF, Maria Yankova, <a href="mailto:myankova@unicef.org">myankova@unicef.org</a> / Lyuba Batembergskas, <a href="mailto:lbatemala@unicef.org">lbatemala@unicef.org</a></p> <p><b>Ruse Regional Inter-Agency Meeting</b> <b>Date:</b> August 2023 (exact date TBC) <b>Location:</b> Hybrid (Ruse Municipality office &amp; online) <b>Time:</b> TBC</p>	