



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

Meeting Details	
Date	31 January 2024
Time	15:00- 16:30
Chair	UNICEF/UNHCR
Reporting	UNHCR
Email	lampe@unhcr.org , frossi@unicef.org
Agenda	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Introduction and attendance2. Update from MLSP3. Update on CP SWG and MLSP collaboration4. Presentation on Adolescent and Youth findings from MSNA: REACH5. Presentation on strengthening child protection in schools: CNPAC6. Update on Roma mediator training7. CP SWG work plan for 20248. AOB	
Information collection and relevant links	
Link to operational data portal: https://data.unhcr.org/en/situations/ukraine/location/10784	



Participants

1- Flore/UNICEF (Co-chair)	13- Tatiana/ CRS	25- Valeria/DRC
2- Katie/UHCR (Co-chair)	14- Alina/ ACMFO	26- Ina/ ADRA
3- Carolina/UNHCR	15- Iulia/CNPAC	27- Sean/UNHCR
4- Valentina/ Lumos	16- Alina/ Chisinau Municipality	28- Loredana/IOM
5- James/REACH	17- Diana/Chisinau Municipality	29- Cristina/ TdH
6- Felicia/REACH	18- Lucia/BSF	30- Ki/MIA
7- Livia/ CCF	19- Natalia/ Hope4	31- Hanna/ ACTED
8- Arina/CIDDC	20- Corina/Keystone Moldova	32- Fede/We World
9- Alexandru/PIN	21- Ilenia/ Plan International	33- Dan/ Intersos
10- Nina/TARNA ROM	22- Camelia/ ICRC	
11- Martin/ Jugend Eine Welt	23- Elena/ CWS	
12- Raluca/ REACH	24- Vera/ World Vision	

Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
1. Introductions & CP SWG Agenda	The co-chairs and participants were introduced. The meeting's agenda was presented for approval. Participants were also requested to mark their attendance.	
2.Update from MLSP	MLSP was not able to attend the meeting. Their updates will be shared later by email with CP SWG members.	The co-chairs will share any updates received from MLSP.
3.Update on CP SWG and Ministry of Labor	The UNICEF co-chair updated the members on the recent meeting with Mr. Chisca, the Head of the Child Protection department within MLSP. MSLP agreed to co-chair the CP SWG on a quarterly basis. The next meeting	The co-chairs will update the



<p>and Social Protection (MLSP) collaboration</p>	<p>chaired by MLSP will focus on the topic of the RESTART reform and the impact on the child protection system, given the latest changes.</p> <p>On the replacement and recruitment of the new child protection specialists, the co-chairs will follow-up with the ministry and share the updated list of child protection specialists to facilitate further referrals to the Guardianship Authority.</p> <p>Regarding the end of the state of emergency, MLSP communicated that there is no need for an additional government decision, as the current legal framework is strong and does not require replacement, and the mechanism for identification of UASC coming from Ukraine will remain in place.</p> <p>On UASC exiting Moldova, MLSP noted some challenges, but which need to be clarified. The co-chairs will follow up on this issue.</p> <p>UNICEF co-chair confirmed that child protection specialists will remain deployed at the main border crossing points. In Palanca, the child protection specialist will be present at the border and in Otaci, the child protection specialist will be on call and available to intervene if a child protection case is identified.</p> <p>The co-chairs also discussed the topic of trainings, highlighting that CP SWG will continue the trainings for 2024 in coordination with MLSP. CPSWG members were advised to communicate any planned child protection trainings to the CP SWG and to MLSP for coordination purposes. MLSP expressed the need for trainings for the multidisciplinary teams and for the new child protection specialists, and the CP SWG co-leads are following up on this.</p>	<p>members of the CP SWG.</p>
<p>4. Presentation on Adolescent and Youth findings from MSNA</p>	<p>REACH presented the preliminary findings on the MSNA focusing on the mental and psychosocial well-being of refugee adolescents. The main objective of the research was to gain a comprehensive understanding of the psychosocial wellbeing and needs of the adolescents aged 14 to 17, including their access to formal and informal support.</p> <p>The study focused on researching the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- predominant cultural views and perceptions- key risk and protective factors	<p>The study will be shared with the members once finalized.</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - coping mechanism - wellbeing needs - formal and informal support services - understanding the main hopes and concerns <p>The study comprised 16 Adolescent Consultations, 28 Key Informant Interviews, 8 Focus Group Discussions and 8 Individual Interviews.</p> <p><i>You can find more details in the presentation shared with the members of the CP SWG.</i></p> <p>UNICEF co-chair highlighted the importance of such studies, as there is a continuous need to adapt services to the needs of adolescents. Also, the link to education was noted, particularly the impact of the online classes on the mental health of the adolescents, which serves as an argument to advocate for the formal enrolment of adolescents in school settings.</p> <p>CCF asked about the adolescents in the Refugee Accommodation Centers, who have access to services, specifically PSS. REACH explained that the study targeted the adolescents in private accommodation, and the majority confirmed their access to PSS services.</p> <p>PIN asked whether any of the respondents were adolescents with disabilities and if this impacted the conclusions of the study. REACH explained that the study did not target this category of adolescents.</p> <p>The UNICEF co-chair noted that for adolescent girls with disabilities, the GBV Safety Audit provides some information confirming the difficulty to access the services.</p>	
<p>5.Strengthening child protection in schools: CNPAC</p>	<p>CNPAC presented their research on <i>Strengthening Child Protection in Schools</i>, conducted in 9 schools in Moldova. A total of 568 pupils aged between 11 to 18 years old and 172 teachers participated in the study.</p> <p>Question addressed by the study:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What do adolescents and teachers understand about child protection? 2. How child friendly are schools? 3. Is there a mechanism for ensuring online protection for children? 	<p>A joint Education and Child Protection meeting will be organized for the discussion to continue.</p>



	<p>The findings revealed a mixed understanding of child protection. A total 25% of children respondents could not identify if certain examples were situations of violence or risk.</p> <p>Only 56% of the teachers reported having access to training on child protection. Young teachers and male teachers reported to have less access to training compared to older, female teachers.</p> <p>The research revealed that adolescents wouldn't report violence in the school and reported that they don't feel protected if they disclose an incident, as there is no action afterwards. Also, 5% of the children responded that they are afraid of the teachers in their school and have been hit in school.</p> <p>In terms of wellbeing, a total of 50% of the adolescents replied that they don't feel heard or asked about their needs. Also, the respondents acknowledged that they need of support in coping with their feelings.</p> <p>The teachers reported the need for a "Step by Step Guidance" when dealing with a crisis.</p> <p>CNPAC provided clarification that 39 Ukrainian children took part in the study.</p> <p>ADRA inquired about the methodology of selecting the schools which participated in the research. CNPAC provided clarification that these are the schools that participated in CNPAC's project with UNHCR, selected from the regions with less services available and through an open call. A mandatory condition was to have Ukrainian children enrolled.</p> <p>ACMFO asked about the methodology of completing the questionnaire and whether this was done in a class setting? CNPAC replied that this aspect was mentioned by the sociological company as a limitation, as this could have led children to select the answers they perceived to be "acceptable."</p> <p>UNHCR co-chair highlighted that the safety of the school setting is an area for collaboration between the education and child protection sectors. Along with increasing the number of refugee children enrolled in Moldovan schools, they also must feel safe in school.</p>	
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	<p>UNICEF co-chair noted that it will be interesting to observe the gender dynamics, particularly in regard to online violence for adolescents. There is a need to train teachers on how to observe, communicate and prevent violence in school settings.</p>	
<p>6.Update on Roma mediator training</p>	<p>UNHCR co-chair provided a brief update on the upcoming Roma mediator training on child protection.</p> <p>The aim of the training is to target 5 to 7 locations with large Roma populations and invite as participants Roma mediators, the local social assistants, the directors of the social assistance agencies, and possibly Roma youth. The training will host a guest from Romania as a co-trainer, along with AVE Copiii.</p> <p>The tentative date is set for April 2024 (tbc) and the members asked to coordinate with the CP SWG if they are planning similar activities.</p>	<p>The members will be posted as further logistics will be planned.</p>
<p>7.CP SWG work plan for 2024</p>	<p>The co-chairs reviewed and updated the Work Plan for 2024, which will be shared with the members of the CP SWG for review and feedback.</p>	<p>Work Plan for 2024 to be shared for inputs.</p>
<p>8.AOB</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Changes to UNHCR cash policy and the link to the legal status:</i> UNHCR co-chair gave a brief update on the upcoming change, and the need for refugees to have a valid legal status (any legal status, not only Temporary Protection) in order to continue receiving UNHCR cash assistance. The cash beneficiaries can update their legal status online or at the UNHCR cash enrollment center. 2. <i>On TP renewal,</i> the government published a draft for public comment. The draft was shared with the members of the Protection Working Group and the sub working groups, and comments are due by 2 February. The PWG is collecting the comments and members are encouraged to comment. There are no significant changes related to children. 3. <i>On the exit requirements of children</i> – IGM shared that while adults now require a biometric passport to exit Moldova, children can continue to exit with the same documents they used previously. 4. <i>Update on the RAC consolidation process:</i> UNHCR informed the members that the visits to four RACs scheduled to close in 2024 (Hotel Balti, Ialoveni, Cahul, Ungheni) have started. At this stage, the MFT is considering the lessons learned from last year and is more confident in the approach. An official closure letter has been sent to the RAC managers by MLSP, and the Roma task force is involved in the relocation process. The official date for closure of the RACs in Ialoveni, Cahul and Ungheni is 17th of March, and for 	<p>The relevant statistics on the <i>Relocation and Consolidation</i> will be presented, once available.</p>



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	<p>Hotel Balti RAC this might be longer. The MFT is advocating with MLSP to avoid in the future the closure of the RACs where people were relocated from previously closed RACs. The Roma task force is working on identifying potential houses for the rental assistance programme and MLSP is working on the vulnerability criteria and the new regulations, which will come out soon.</p>	
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