



### Inter-Agency Refugee Education Working Group (IREWG)

Meeting Details		
Date	27 <sup>th</sup> of February 2025	
Time	1:00-2:30pm	
Chair	Chair: Dr. Ivan Duminica, Head of the Policy Service for Interethnic Relations, Ministry of Education and Research (MER) Co- chairs: Katie Lampe, Child Protection Officer, UNHCR; Loujine Khoury, Education Specialist, UNICEF	
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Agenda		
Agenda point	Time	Focal Point
<b>1. MER updates regarding:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The enrollment numbers of Ukrainian children for the school year 2024/2025 in preschools and general education.</li><li>Updates from MER on the Popeasca and Stefan Voda visits.</li><li>Updates from MER on Taras Shevchenko School and its Action Plan.</li><li>MER Letter to the Ministry of Education and Science in Ukraine.</li></ul>	13:00 – 13:35	MER
<b>2. Partner’s Presentation</b>	13:35 – 13:55	PiN
<b>3. Updates on the process of learning for children residing in the RACs.</b>	13:55 – 14:15	UNHCR and AVE Copiii
<b>4. Updated ToR and Work Plan for the REWG for 2025</b>	14:15 – 14:20	UNICEF and UNHCR



<p><b>4. AoB</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. RRP 2025-2026 Launch.</li> <li>2. TP Status Renewal.</li> <li>3. National Integration Plan for Foreigners in the Republic of Moldova 2025- 2027.</li> <li>4. Updates on the Roadmap for the inclusion of refugee children in the Education System in Moldova.</li> </ol>	<p>14:20 - 14:30</p>	<p>UNICEF &amp; UNHCR</p>
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**Information collection and relevant links**

Activity Info Platform: <https://www.activityinfo.org>

**Participants**

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|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| - Dr. Ivan Duminica - MER             | - Olesea Cazasu – NCU                                | - Nina Cusnir – Tarna Rom                         |
| - Katie Lampe - UNHCR                 | - Elena Colesnicova – WeWorld                        | - Olga Morozan – Pestalozzi Children’s Foundation |
| - Loujine Khoury – UNICEF             | - Tatiana Tusca –CRS                                 | - Maher Daboul – NRC                              |
| - Christos Martinis – UNICEF- MER     | - Vera Gurievschi – World Vision                     |   |
| - Carolina Sclifos – UNHCR            | - Felicia Bulat – IMPACT                             |   |
| - Diana Alexei- Chisinau Municipality | - Olga Hainițchi - Tarna Rom                         |   |
| - Mihail Platinda - UNICEF            | - Marcel Straton–Lumos Foundation Moldova            |   |
| - Dmitri Surovtov – People in Need    | - Alexandrina Trofin- Amici Bambini                  |   |
| - Xenia Martinov – People in Need     | - Romeo Leapciuc – National Youth Council of Moldova |   |
| - Evelina Mocanu – People in Need     |  |   |
| - Tatiana Zaloi – Terres Des Hommes   |  |   |



### Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
Welcome and presentation of agenda	UNHCR co-chair opened the meeting and thanked members who had attended both in person and online. She invited Dr. Duminica, the chair, to share the latest updates in the sector.	
<b>1. MER Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>The enrollment numbers of Ukrainian children for the school year 2024/2025 in preschools and general education:</b>  Preschool: 986 Ukrainian children enrolled. School: 2,534 Ukrainian children enrolled. Total: 3,520 Ukrainian children enrolled.</li></ul> <p>Currently, 2,175 refugee children are enrolled in schools where the language of instruction is Russian while 359 in are enrolled in Romanian speaking schools, with an overall gender balance among students. In terms of grade distribution, there are 1,210 students in primary school, 1,229 in lower secondary, and 114 in upper secondary. A key challenge remains in the 9th and 12th grades, where students are required to take written exams in Romanian language. Most refugee children are enrolled in Chisinau Municipality, followed by Balti, Gagauzia, and Stefan Voda. Additionally, the number of children with vaccination certificates is increasing, which shows the impact of awareness-raising efforts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>Updates from MER on the Popeasca and Stefan Voda visits.</b> On Wednesday, February 20, representatives from REWG (MER, UNHCR, Tarna Rom, and UNICEF) conducted a field visit to Popeasca RAC and Ștefan Vodă Gymnasium “Dimitrie Cantemir” to assess the educational situation of refugee children and address key challenges. During the visit to Popeasca, the REWG met with the RAC manager and parents and evaluated the enrollment status of children living in the RAC. Thanks to collaborative efforts, 15 children are now enrolled, with 14 attending online courses at “Dimitrie Cantemir” Gymnasium. The district authorities have provided transportation to facilitate their access to education.</li></ul>	



	<p>However, it was noted that five children from Popeasca RAC were not enrolled in Popeasca Kindergarten. To address this, a meeting was organized between the mayor, the kindergarten director, and MER. MER informed them of their obligation to take the necessary measures and, on February 21, urgently sent an official request to the Educational Directorate for the immediate enrollment of these children. In bilateral discussions with the head of the Education Directorate, she confirmed that steps had been initiated to enroll them. A second visit will be conducted to monitor the enrollment progress in the coming month</p> <p><b>Need for Psycho-Pedagogical Assistance:</b> During the visit, REWG met with parents in Popeasca RAC who expressed the urgent need for psycho-pedagogical support for all 29 children due to the traumatic experiences they have endured and the challenges they face integrating into a new environment. In response, on February 21, MER sent a formal request to the Psycho-Pedagogical Assistance Service, in collaboration with the Republican Center for Psycho-Pedagogical Assistance, to ensure the necessary support for these children and their families.</p> <p><b>Partners'Remarks:</b> Tarna ROM informed REWG of a scarlet fever outbreak in grade 1 at Gymnasium "D. Cantemir" in Ștefan Vodă. Although only one classroom is quarantined, and the school remains open with hygiene measures in place, parents from RAC Popeasca have kept their children home. They plan to send them back after the school vacation, causing them to further miss classes. Teachers have not contacted the children, so the school principal was advised to coordinate with the RAC manager to share homework and consider online engagement.</p> <p>Tarna ROM, also informed REWG that in Criuleni RAC, parents are enrolling their children in school under the RAC manager's supervision. Children studying online were reminded to access the EduTech labs space available in the school for children continuing to learn online.</p> <p>- <b>Taras Shevchenko School and the Action Plan.</b></p> <p>Taras Shevchenko School remains a priority, with an additional 103 children currently enrolled. Currently MER focuses on the need to translate the Moldovan curriculum into Ukrainian. At present, students use Ukrainian textbooks, which are not always well aligned with the Moldovan curriculum. To address this, efforts are being made to identify and translate key textbooks from the Moldovan curriculum into Ukrainian. The process of selecting which materials to translate is underway, and discussions have been initiated with donors to secure funding for this effort. MER is also seeking organizations interested in supporting the translation and printing process.</p>	<p>- MER to schedule a follow-up visit to Criuleni RAC</p> <p>- MER to finalize the concept note, describing the translation project and including cost estimations.</p>
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<p><b>2. Partner's Presentation</b></p>	<p><b>Partner Remarks:</b> To facilitate partner's engagement, UNICEF co-chair requested a detailed concept from the Ministry of Education and Research, including cost estimations, timelines, and the remaining needs of the schools. Having this information by the next working group meeting would be beneficial, allowing partners to consider how they might assist, whether through financial support, in-kind contributions, or other resources.</p> <p>- <b>MER Letter to the Ministry of Education and Science in Ukraine.</b></p> <p>In its ongoing efforts to ensure access to quality education for all children, including Ukrainian children currently residing in the country, MER has addressed an official letter to the Ministry of Education and Research of Ukraine. This letter seeks cooperation in obtaining data on students following the Ukrainian curriculum through online learning from Moldova. The information will help MER monitor the educational progress of all children residing in Moldova and facilitate their access to quality, inclusive learning pathways.</p> <p>- <b>MER &amp; Ministry of Internal Affairs (MIA) Intersectoral Mechanism</b></p> <p>MER has addressed an official letter to MIA to initiate the discussions for the creation of an intersectoral mechanism for the exchange of Inspection General of Migration (IGM) data. This cooperation aims to obtain IGM data for all children. The information will assist MER in monitoring the educational progress of all children (including children with Temporary Protection Status (TP), Asylum status or with residence permits), as well as tracking the educational status of children under TP residing in accordance with Article 17 of the newly approved Temporary Protection Directive.</p> <p>- <b>PiN Presentation (See PiN presentation for more details)</b></p> <p><i>Updates on Online Learning from the EduTech Labs</i></p> <p>Ukrainian Children Attending Online Learning Classes:</p> <p>Total: 373 children</p>	
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<p><b>3. Updates on the process of learning for children residing in the RACs.</b></p>          <p><b>4. Updated ToR and Work Plan for the REWG for 2025</b></p>	<p>Children Attending Romanian Lessons in the Edutech Labs (including both Ukrainian and Moldovan children):</p> <p>Total: 440 children</p> <p>- <b>Updates on the process of learning for children residing in the RACs.</b></p> <p>UNHCR and Ave Copiii provided updates on children’s learning in RACs. Currently, 26 RACs are active, with two (one in Congaz and one in Chisinau) closing in Q2 of 2025. MLSP is overseeing a phased consolidation of certain RACs over the course of the year. The next closures (2-3 centers) are expected to begin in April-May (with final closure dates during the summer), with details on later phases still pending. Education partners, including Tarna Ram, Ave Copiii, and PIN, are monitoring education activities in RACs, but some remain under-assessed. Visits are being organized to gather data, identify needs, and coordinate partner's support.</p> <p>AVE Copiii gave a presentation on their work in the Congaz RAC, which has a significant number of children, and it stands out as a success story and an example of a good practice of combining the intersecting fields of child protection and education. All children in this RAC have been successfully enrolled in school, despite many initial barriers, including lack of vaccinations, lack of prior educational experience for some children, and parental hesitancy in other cases. Though the RAC is scheduled to close in April, as a result of extensive advocacy work by Ave Copii, MER, REWG and CP SWG, MLSP confirmed that families with children enrolled in school will be allowed to remain until the end of the school year. This extension will ensure that children can complete their education, receive their certificates of completion, and take exams by the end of the school year.</p> <p>- <b>Updated ToR and Work Plan for the REWG for 2025</b></p> <p>REWG revised the 2025 Terms of Reference (ToR) and Work Plan and shared them with partners for feedback. No comments were received, so the final versions were submitted to the Inter-Agency team. The TOR remains largely unchanged, while the work plan places greater emphasis on coordination, advocacy, and information management. The final draft will be shared again with the meeting minutes, and partners can still provide any last remarks</p>	<p>- REWG to share again the REWG ToR and Worplan for 2025 for any last comments.</p>
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<b>5. AoB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>RRP 2025-2026 Launch</b></li></ul> <p>The 2025-2026 RRP was launched, with most REWG partners participating in the event on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February 2025. RRP Activity Info reporting will continue quarterly, and updates will be provided by the interagency team.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>TP Status Renewal</b></li></ul> <p>On 26 February, the Government approved amendments to Government Decision No. 21/2023 on Temporary Protection for displaced persons from Ukraine, extending Temporary Protection status for one additional year. As of the date of the REWG meeting, the final version had not yet been published in the official Gazette, but in the version debated by the Government, several submitted comments related to education were taken into consideration. Article 17 of the Government Decision requires parents to report within 5 days whether their children attend school online or in person. MER, (as mentioned in Agenda Point 1) is in the process of developing a monitoring mechanism, in consultation with other relevant ministries. This is a positive step toward stronger education monitoring and should extend beyond children under Temporary Protection to include children with other forms of legal status. Once published, the Protection Working Group will provide an analysis for all the submitted comments from partners and what was reflected in the decision covering child protection, entry requirements, and other relevant topics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- <b>National Integration Plan for Foreigners in the Republic of Moldova 2025- 2027</b></li></ul> <p>The government is finalizing a National Integration Plan to enhance the inclusion of all categories of foreigners in Moldova, with refugees being the largest group. The plan covers various sectors, including a significant section on education. While the RRP focuses on humanitarian partner interventions, the integration plan primarily addresses government-led efforts, ensuring no duplication. A public consultation period was held, during which UNHCR and UNICEF provided inputs on the education section. The plan is expected to be approved soon.</p>	
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- **Updates of the Roadmap for the inclusion of refugee children in the Education System in Moldova.**

Two meetings were held with the MER, to review the latest draft. Minor adjustments are being made before its formal approval, after which the final version will be shared. A key update is that MER is drafting a proposal for introducing a preparatory year for children enrolling in Romanian-speaking schools. This program will focus on language acquisition and catch-up learning, aligning with the roadmap's initial vision. Discussions are ongoing regarding subjects to be covered within this program, weekly hours, and teaching materials, among other details. This all remains closely aligned with the National Integration Plan's regarding the language acquisition program and aims to support not only refugee children but also all foreign students entering Moldova's education system.