



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

Meeting Details	
<b>Date</b>	05 February 2025
<b>Time</b>	15:00 – 16:30
<b>Chair</b>	UNICEF/UNHCR
<b>Reporting</b>	UNHCR
<b>Email</b>	<a href="mailto:lampe@unhcr.org">lampe@unhcr.org</a> , <a href="mailto:whofs@unicef.org">whofs@unicef.org</a>
Agenda	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. MLSP updates</li> <li>2. Update on RAC consolidation process</li> <li>3. Update on Temporary Protection</li> <li>4. Update on energy crisis on the Left Bank</li> <li>5. Update on trainings</li> <li>6. AOB: CP SWG ToRs and workplan; ActivityInfo reporting, RRP launch</li> </ol>	
Information collection and relevant links	
<p>Please use the below link to fill out information</p> <p>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></p>	
Participants	

1- Werner Hofs/UNICEF (Co-chair)	7- Raluca/ Impact	13- Catarev Cristina, IGM
2- Katie Lampe/UNHCR (Co-chair)	8- Olga/ Tarna Rom	14- Virgiliu Hangan/ P4EC
3- Tatiana Danilescu/ UNICEF	9- Ina/Tarna Rom	15- Aliona/CNPAC
4- Carolina Scrifos/UNHCR	10- Alexandru N./TdH Moldova	16- Andrea/ UNHCR
5- Irina R./ CDA	11- Cristina T. / TdH	17- Alexandr G./Resonance
6- Ana/ Intersos	12- Elia/ APSCF	



### Summary of discussions and agreements/ action points

Agenda	Discussion	Agreements/ Actions
Updates from MLSP	<p><b>Katie (UNHCR)</b> shared the updates from MLSP:</p> <p>According to the information provided by the territorial social assistance structures regarding unaccompanied and refugee children accompanied by “unauthorized guardians” who arrived from the territory of Ukraine during the declared state of emergency, as well as the documents issued for exit authorization between December 29, 2023 – December 31, 2024 (the last reporting period), the territorial guardianship authorities recorded the following refugee children: 11 unaccompanied children, 47 unauthorized accompanied children, and 28 documents issued for exit authorization from the Republic of Moldova.</p> <p>Additionally, as of January 1, 2025, based on data from the territorial guardianship authorities, the following are registered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A total of 3,015 children who arrived from Ukraine, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ 406 refugee children currently staying with their parents/guardians in Temporary Placement Centers for displaced persons from other countries;</li><li>○ 2,609 refugee children residing in local communities, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 3 unaccompanied refugee children and 12 unauthorized accompanied refugee children under the supervision of territorial guardianship authorities;</li><li>▪ 2 refugee children benefiting from professional parental assistance services;</li><li>▪ 2 refugee children placed under guardianship/trusteeship.</li></ul></li></ul></li></ul> <p>Other unaccompanied or refugee children accompanied by “unauthorized” guardians have been placed in custody arrangements or are in the process of establishing custody arrangements (the most common form of protection). Thus, as of January 1, 2025, a total of 104 refugee children placed under custody were registered with the territorial guardianship authorities.</p> <p>Updates on the meeting of the Intersectoral Working Group on Child Protection, established under the platform of the Commission for the Coordination of Activities in the Field of Migration and Asylum, held on January 24, 2025:</p>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- referral process between the border police and the guardianship authority was discussed. UNICEF and UNHCR will support with some trainings and a workshop, to bring together colleagues from different sectors.</li><li>- Education for refugee children and the need for some further coordination between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labor and Social protection for children who are out of school, was also discussed. Since there is no mechanism to monitor if refugee children are studying online, this is also a child protection concern. No conclusions were reached, and it was noted some more coordination on this topic is needed.</li></ul> <p><b>Werner (UNICEF)</b> - A concern raised in the meeting was the situation of children who enter Moldova with their parents or legal guardians but are later left behind when caregivers return to Ukraine for work or other reasons. This issue, particularly affecting children studying online, poses challenges for the child protection system in identifying and supporting them, highlighting the need for further assessment and data collection.</p>	<p>Katie will follow up together with the education colleagues to see how we can work, particularly on the identification of children who might be out of school and support them to be in a school environment</p>
<p><b>Update on RAC consolidation process</b></p>	<p><b>Andrea (UNHCR)</b> – MLSP info on the RACs closing during 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The 2025 closures will be divided into 4 groups (one per quarter).</li><li>- In the first group – RAC Congaz (ID: 5) and Chisinau (ID: 100).</li><li>- RAC Congaz – capacity 100 people, currently the occupancy is 93. To be closed by the end of April.</li><li>- RAC Chisinau (100) – capacity 20, occupancy 19. Is to be closed by the end of March, at the request of the NGO that runs it.</li><li>- UNHCR and other partners are supporting both closure processes. The first MFT visit in Congaz took place already. ACTED (protection partner) and CRS (rental assistance partner) are involved. The first MFT visit for RAC 100 is planned.</li><li>- In the second group there are 3 RACs – Cojusna (ID: 66), Glodeni (ID: 3), and Chisinau (ID: 151). UNHCR is advocating not to have RAC Glodeni and Cojusna in the same closure group, because of the high number of refugees in both RACs and also high number of Roma families.</li></ul> <p><b>Katie (UNHCR)</b> – Ave Copiii will also provide support in the closure process of the RAC Congaz as they did in RAC Testimitianu. They will be involved in the closure process of RACs either with larger numbers of children or with more complex cases of children.</p>	



	<p><b>Andrea (UNHCR)</b> – Currently, there are around 1346 people in RACs, out of those 47 are children aged 0 – 2 years old, 544 children 2 - 18 years old.</p> <p>Once finished with the closure with the first group (around March – April), then the next group will start right away, and it will have again the two months period that is under the ministerial order to close the second group as well.</p> <p><b>Katie (UNHCR)</b> - CPSWG members that are providing services in the RACs under closure that need support, relocation assistance, or referrals for families requiring ongoing aid, should approach UNHCR/UNICEF.</p> <p><b>Andrea (UNHCR)</b> – for more information on the needs or the situation in the RACs, please check the dashboard the Basic needs WG is sharing every month.</p>	
<b>Update on Temporary Protection</b>	<p><b>UNHCR (Katie)</b> shared updates on Temporary Protection. A draft amendment to the Temporary Protection Decision has been shared by the government, which extends TP by one year, and also introduces several other changes. In relation to child protection, the changes in the following articles are proposed:</p> <p>Article 4(2) and 4(2<sup>1</sup>): Entry requirements for children. Please note that a distinction has been proposed between the requirements for children below and above four years old.</p> <p>Article 4<sup>1</sup>: This scope of this article has been narrowed to focus exclusively on unaccompanied children.</p> <p>Article 4<sup>2</sup>: The article still only provides flexibility for adults exiting Moldova for Ukraine. The procedures for children are unclear.</p> <p>Article 17: Three points were introduced related to education, one of which could lead to the “reassessment” of the Temporary Protection status of children who are not engaged in any form of education. Other points focus on ensuring children’s right to education.</p>	



	<p>UNHCR and UNICEF, as well as other partners, submitted comments during the short public comment period. Co-chairs will keep members updated on further developments.</p>	
<b>Update on energy crisis on the Left Bank</b>	<p>The <b>UNHCR co-chair</b> reiterated that this working group is not the primary body to coordinate the energy crisis response, but that the presented information will be useful for general awareness and if any NGOs would consider taking further actions.</p> <p><b>Alexandr Gonciar (Resonance NGO, Tiraspol)</b> – Briefly updated on the situation in the Transnistrian region and noted, according to the official statistics, 469 refugee children study in schools in Transnistria, 170 in kindergartens, and 10 children in boarding schools. However, he noted that not all schools in Tiraspol are open for the moment. Other schools might open next week, assuming the availability of electricity and gas resources.</p> <p>Resonance acknowledged the energy crisis is a problem for all children in the Transnistria region, as the majority of them have not attended school with physical presence since January. Resonance expressed concerns about the quality of online education, which has a negative impact on the children’s education long-term.</p> <p>Resonance received several food package requests from schools in rural areas, and they registered six cases where children eat only once a day. It was noted that the current crisis encouraged energy reform projects, ongoing already on the right bank, to be extended to the left bank as well.</p> <p>Resonance provided support to 9 boys and 18 girls (separated children) and 3 more children will receive support. The children don’t have other urgent needs, and their situation is being monitored.</p> <p><b>UNICEF</b> noted it is continuing its support with winter NFIs, psychological support, case management for children in alternative care and institutions who might be impacted by the energy crisis.</p> <p>Continuing the topic, the <b>UNHCR</b> Shelter Officer provided an update on the distribution of NFIs (blankets and solar lamps). The distribution is ongoing, but a total of 2100 households (around 5000 people) have been reached through the distributions in Rezina and Varnita so far. Several rounds of distributions focused on Roma, the host community, and refugees. UNHCR co-chair noted that the NFI matrix from the Basic Needs WG was already forwarded to the members of the CP SWG.</p>	<p>The members planning some NFI distributions were encouraged to share the information through the Basic Needs Working Group, for coordination purposes.</p>



	<p>Resonance added that there is a difference in the power of the current heating, as it is not as warm as during normal times. Additional heating devices are being used to cope with this transitional period, and the blankets and other heating devices are useful to that. Resonance inquired about the UNHCR NFI distribution, and the Shelter Officer replied that UNHCR is working with the refugee community representatives and the social assistance, the support being offered 50% to the community and 50% to the refugees. The UNHCR recommended a bilateral call to discuss the specifics.</p>	
<b>Update on trainings</b>	<p>A child protection training, which brought together Child Protection Specialists, Roma Community Mediators, and some local public authorities, including from ATAS/STAS, from 7 localities in Moldova with larger numbers of Roma community members, took place at the end of December 2024. It was co-facilitated by AVE Copiii and a Roma-led NGO from Romania. The training served as a useful platform for dialogue about how the various entities can better collaborate to ensure children’s protection.</p> <p>CP SWG partners were reminded to share any planned trainings with the CP SWG co-leads to ensure smooth coordination.</p>	
<b>AOB: CP SWG ToRs and workplan; Activity Info reporting, RRP launch</b>	<p>UNHCR (Katie) co-chair shared several updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The CP SWG ToRs and workplan are in the process of being revised for 2025 and will be shared with CP SWG members for any additional feedback once finalized.</li><li>• CP SWG members are kindly reminded to ensure to continue reporting in ActivityInfo in 2025, as it is necessary for RRP reporting purposes, and also very useful for sector coordination.</li><li>• RRP 2025-2026 launch is planned for February.</li><li>• The 2024 RRP report is currently being prepared. The CP SWG co-leads submitted inputs on behalf of the child protection sector. Thanks to all partners for their work last year.</li><li>• CP SWG is in the process of updating the child protection referral pathways. If your organization’s activities or focal point contact info has changed, let Carolina (UNHCR) know. The most updated version of the referral pathways continue to be available in the <a href="#">Google Drive</a>.</li></ul>	