

Child Protection Sub-Working Group - Romania 7 April 2022, 9-10:30am (hybrid)

Participants: Adra, CNRR, ECLER/RAU, Hospice - House of Hope, ICVAC Network, IOM, JRS, Plan International, Save the Children, UNHCR, UNICEF and War Child

Welcome and Introductions

Introduction of CP SWG

- CP SWG to be co-led by ANPDCA, UNICEF and UNHCR
- Frequency of meeting: Initially on a weekly basis– to be convened in hybrid format – every **Thursday from 11:30 am-1:00pm**. Minutes of the meetings will be circulated among all members in a timely manner. UNICEF and UNHCR to rotate role of co-chair and notetaking.

Overview of Review Situation in Romania

- Since 24 February, **632,382** Ukrainians have arrived in Romania (as of 6 April 2022) – estimated 34% children. **552,612** have departed Romania and **79,770** are presently in the country.
- Main risks include psychological distress, risk of trafficking, exploitation, abuse and violence and family separation

Suggested Child Protection Priorities

- Systematic identification and registration and identification of children at risk, including unaccompanied and separated children
- Support national child protection services and appropriate care arrangements, including prevention and response to gender-based violence, trafficking, exploitation and abuse
- Access to education, mental health and psychosocial support, health and other services

Overview of Planned CP Activities

- Brief organization updates on current and planned child protection activities. They should all be captured on the 5W matrix that will be circulated following the meeting.
- Overview of Blue Dot (joint UNICEF and UNHCR) initiative – given geographical scope and needs, many opportunities for us all to collaborate together as one under the Blue Dot logo and ensure integration of response into national child protection system

Key Concerns and Points Raised

- Urgent need for standardized system or mechanisms for registration, with disaggregated data available, to better monitor and follow up trace and follow up on children.
 - Application of the inter-ministerial order on procedures for unaccompanied and separated children (UASC) and referral to local child protection authorities is not harmonized across border entry points.

- No clear picture on how other children-at-risk are being identified and referred to the child protection authorities
- Lack of information reaching those arriving from Ukraine on protection services and support available in Romania.
 - Concerns of increased child protection risks and incidents that are not being properly identified and referred
 - Gap in communication as identification of interpreters remains challenging
- Need for mapping of local social service providers and services, and review of referral pathways in place – in some places this has already been done, but not everywhere
- Request for more details on the Government’s Action Plan on child protection and concern on how to reflect this in the CP SWG 5W matrix
 - Request for presentation by ANPDCA on Action Plan once it has been finalized and made available for circulation
 - 5W will be a living document that can be updated, but as many activities are already implemented, there is a need to start mapping activities from now to harmonize response and prevent duplication
 - Clear referral mechanisms need to be established and shared
- General and urgent need for capacity building (authorities, volunteers, staff)
 - Provision of psychological first aid for frontliners is also needed
- Call for collaborative efforts in child protection advocacy to ensure harmonized messaging, awareness raising and create opportunities for recommendations.

Next steps / action points

- CP SWG 5W Matrix and available training packages and child-friendly materials – for each organization to complete by COB 13 April
- UNHCR to share link to CP SWG SharePoint site which will act as a repository of CP SWG materials and key resources to encourage members to share useful tools and good practices
- UNHCR and UNICEF to organize meeting for next week specifically on Blue Dots for organizations interested to collaborate on this initiative
- CP SWG TORs – to be circulated in the coming days for feedback

The next CP SWG meeting will be held on 14 April 2022 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm